

# THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Autumn 2009



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## Feature Writers in this Issue

The main feature, Part 2 of *Reading School – Some Random Recollections*, by R B van Wart, concludes his reminiscences, Part 1 of which appeared in the Spring 2009 issue.

Our other lead features concern cricket ... *First XI Cricket at Reading School* includes some statistical updating, by the Hon Archivist, of certain sections of *A History of Cricket at Reading School* (published in 1986) and *Cricketing Old Redingensians* looks at some of those whose cricket continued beyond School.

# The President's Letter

**Welcome to the Autumn 2009 edition of *The Old Redingensian*. Many of the events I refer to below are reported in more detail elsewhere (please refer to the contents page).**

The Association has had an active spring and summer. In April, 34 of us, including wives, met at Amberley for the **Sussex Lunch**, hosted by Michael Smith. This annual event has been arranged by Michael for many years but sadly for everyone he has decided that this year's should be his final show. If any OR would like to take up the baton, we will advertise the event on the website which should ensure an enthusiastic response.

The OR **Golfing Society** Spring Meeting, at Calcot Golf Club, was reported in the last issue and, the report by the Hon Sec Will Lunn, of the Autumn competition at Henley Golf Club appears on page 34.

In June a party of ORs and wives paid a visit to the **Houses of Parliament**, courtesy of Mark Field OR MP. We first met for an elegant and leisurely lunch at the RAF Club in Piccadilly, followed by a tour of the Palace of Westminster. This consisted of some education on the history of the buildings and historic events within them, seats in the visitors' gallery and an address by Mark discussing a whole range of current issues. We were all very impressed by his comprehensive grasp of these and are very grateful for his time and that of his staff.

In July **Cricket Week** was again organised by Terry Cartwright. The event has moved into term time to enable participation by schoolboy players. Following the Saturday fixture against the School 1st XI matches were played against Chelsea Nomads, Bowdon and Kensington. Following his many years involvement with Cricket Week, Terry has decided to step down and we offer him our heartfelt thanks for all that he has achieved.

The OR **Summer Festival** took place against the background of the weekend's cricket, with a marquee and bar, School band, a bouncy castle, an exhibition taken from our archives, and some very popular tours of the School. In case you missed it, we plan a repeat next year.

In September the OR **Rugby 7s** were held at the School, enthusiastically supported, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are grateful to Alastair Wrenn for once again organising this most successful event.

You may have noticed that we have a **website** back in action, [oldredingensians.org.uk](http://oldredingensians.org.uk), though it has been a little slow to show anything of great interest. We now aim to keep it up to date with past and future events and early next year it will be upgraded with networking features. The new website is the product of the knowledge and enthusiasm of Francis Pocock.



This year's **Enterprise Award** programme received 26 worthy entries and there is a full report of the recipients' activities elsewhere in this magazine. The total awarded was £6,950. (We don't just give this money away, we require the boys to enthuse us with their planned activity, and to provide a business plan for their total funding.)

Constant other opportunities continue to arise for us to support the School. Currently, there is discussion about the continuing

improvement of Big School and various interior considerations for the Chapel, amongst other subjects.

Please don't forget the School's **1125 Fund** which has been set up to raise money for an essential refectory, followed, with everyone's support, by new science facilities and an indoor sports and assembly hall. Sadly one of the aspects of our high performing, hugely successful School, is that it is not in line for any spare cash that might be available from government resources, despite the need for new building and maintenance (which is mandated) for those buildings which are Grade II listed. The School community: ourselves, the current boys and their parents, are perhaps rightly seen as an elite. However, this means that we have to look to ourselves to provide for the accommodation upgrades the boys deserve. Parents are beginning to contribute to the appeal, and, as they show how much they value the new facilities, I do hope more ORs will contribute, as I and others have already done.

The OR **Remembrance Service** was held in the School Chapel on Sunday, 8 November at 10.30 am. The OR Honorary Chaplain, Rev D R Hemsley, invited the Rev P B Marr OR (1948-53) to preach. The OR **AGM and Dinner** on Saturday, 28 November is advertised on page 24. There will be full reports of these events in the next issue of this journal.

**Floreat Redingensis!**  
**Neil Thomason**

# Notes & News

For the first time in very many years the Old Redingensians Association has a centenarian in its ranks. A congratulatory card was sent to H E V (Henry) Bertoux (1920-26) whose 100th birthday was on 7 July this year. Henry was in South House as was his elder brother, A V A Bertoux (1918-22), and his stepbrother, H E (Harold) Cunningham (1929-35).

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Caversham Heights Methodist Church also celebrated its centenary this year - on 23 June. The Rev Dr J A (John) Ogden OR (1951-58) retires this year, having reached the age of 70, but he will continue to serve the circuit.

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Redingensians have a vicarious interest in the Warwickshire cricketer, Jonathan Trott, whose sparkling debut for England in the final test made such a contribution to regaining the Ashes this summer. He is married to the granddaughter of the great Tom Dollery OR (1925-32) of Warwickshire and England fame. Abi (nee Dollery) is Warwickshire CCC's Press Officer.

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The Class of 2008 held a reunion barbecue at the School on 19 July. The afternoon started with a Tug-o-War followed by a cricket competition both counting towards the 'Ned Niddler' Cup (the origins of which are lost in the mists of the last couple of years...) with West House apparently 'clear winners' though aided in the cricket by various staff members including Messrs Holt and Judd (both ORs). A good time was had by all.

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*We Cannot Park On Both Sides. Reading Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War 1936-39* by Mike Cooper and Ray Parkes tells the story, inter alia, of the three Reading men known to have died fighting in Spain. Two of them were former Reading School boys; E H (Bill) Ball (1926-34) and A F (Josh) Francis (1923-31). *The Old Redingensian Newsletter* of February 1997 carried an article about these two ORs and John Boulting (1928-31) who also served in Spain (and, of course, survived to play such a significant part in the British film industry).

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A history of E Jackson & Sons Ltd, of Jacksons Corner, the oldest family owned department store in Reading, by Thomas Macey, is available from the shop, price £5. The School outfitting department will be remembered by generations of Reading School boys. Jackson family members educated at Reading School include E R Jackson (1889-93) and his brother R H Jackson (1889-95) who each became chairman of the company. The founder, Edward Jackson, became both Mayor of Reading and a governor of the School.

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Rex Hora's (1959-65) campaign to save the William Bagnall Fireless Steam Locomotive - Huntley & Palmer's No 1' -for Reading, has currently hit the buffers. The engine has been sold to a Bradford enthusiast, while Reading Borough Council were cogitating.

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Major J M (John) Perry (1942-49), *pictured*, who has for some years been in the forefront of the movement to ensure that Combat Stress is justly addressed, was heard on Radio Four again, in August, on the subject of disabled servicemen's pensions. John's tireless efforts on their behalf, since he discovered an irregularity in his own pension – he was himself invalided out of the Army – has already resulted in substantial refunding to veterans of incorrectly deducted tax. His campaigning continues.

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A D (Arthur) Truslove (2003-06) is Treasurer of Durham University Boat Club.

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The OR Association Honorary Chaplain, Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) is currently Area Dean of Buckingham. David presided at the OR Remembrance Service on Sunday, 8 November, in the School Chapel.

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Professor Alan Johnson (1940-49) seeks news of P W (Paul) Mundy (1940-48). Can any reader assist?

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Rodney Lunn (1954-60), whose obituary appears in this issue, was a talented artist. Only days after he died came the announcement that he was a winner in the Christmas card design competition to mark the 30th anniversary of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. His design, *Carol Singers in Trafalgar Square*, is available in the MNDA's Christmas 2009 collection.

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In April, The History of Reading Society heard G M (Martin) Murphy FRHS OR (1941-45), *pictured*, give his fascinating lecture on Leonard Coxe, Headmaster of Reading School 1530-47. (Martin wrote at length about Coxe in the October 2004 issue of *The Old Redingensian*.) Coxe's reputation as a scholar and humanist was established in Europe – where he still has a place in Polish and Slovakian history – and his work *On the teaching of youth* is the earliest treatise on education written by a British author. In the vein of Erasmus, he was a scholar writing in the lingua franca that then united Europe – classical Latin.



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In June Lieutenant M D A S (Matthew) Hilton (1993-00) of the Intelligence Corps took a group of soldiers to Peru to learn skills in mountaineering at high altitude. Whilst acclimatising they assisted in the building of a hostel to accommodate children for whom it is too far to walk to school thus ensuring that they have their chance of education. Matthew has since led a further party of soldiers mountaineering in the Alps.

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A picture of Alfred Sutton Junior School's production of *'The Water Babies'* in 1949, was sent to the local paper by Mrs Margaret Achurch who has lived in South Australia since 1972 with her husband, Revd Peter Achurch OR (1948-54). Peter was in the picture and Mrs Achurch says "quite a few" other boys in the picture also went on to Reading School: so, if any readers were in this production please write in!



Professor Martin Parsons (1963-70), *pictured*, director of the Research Centre for Evacuees and War Child Studies (ResCEW) based at the University of Reading, is the Curator of an exhibition about the evacuation of children in wartime, at the Museum of English Rural Life in Redlands Road, Reading. The exhibition opened in September and will run until 22 December: for opening times call 0118 378 5626 or visit website [www.reading.ac.uk](http://www.reading.ac.uk).

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The Coroner's enquiry into the death of Dr Ian Burnell (1993-00), who fell while climbing near Alicante in May 1997, has found that he died as the result of a tragic accident. He was described as a capable climber who was wearing the correct safety equipment. Ian Burnell's obituary appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of *The Old Redingensian*.

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An article in a recent *Telegraph Magazine* told the story of 'Sunnyside', the Island of Grenada's "most famous garden" (including its survival from the ravages of Hurricane Ivan five years ago). Appropriately, when it was created in the 1990s the garden was stocked from the Island's most famous nursery, St. Rose, owned by the noted horticulturalist, John Criswick (1950-57).

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Professor F R (Francis) Terry (1956-63) is co-director of a two stage leadership programme designed to assist the Libyan Government in improving the efficiency of that country's 800,000 strong Civil Service. Francis is Professor of Public Management, London School of Economics Executive Education.

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Barbara Bass (Staff 1988-99) has played a major part in bringing the 1949-61 correspondence of her now ninety-five year old cousin, Frances Woodsford, with Commodore Paul Bigelow of Long Island, NY, to press. Chatto and Windus published *'Dear Mr Bigelow'* on 1 October and it was Book of the Week on Radio 4, from 26 October.

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M D (Michael) Slater (1953-55) Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London and Past President of the International Dickens Fellowship – perhaps the greatest living authority on the life and works of Dickens – has written a major new biography of the writer. *Charles Dickens* by Michael Slater is published by Yale University Press at £25.

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The co-editors were invited to a small celebration in Sonning on 3 October which would have been the 94th birthday of the late Col 'Wally' Pryke MBE (Green Howards) (1931-34). CJW allowed himself to be photographed by KCB – a rare event! (Chris is second from right in the group shown.)



# Enterprise Awards 2009

## COUNTDOWN TO 2010 A NEW DECADE

As we go to press the OR Enterprise Awards panel is already at the planning stage for the launch of the 2010 campaign with launch date set for mid January.

The OR initiated Enterprise Awards programme is increasingly well supported by Reading School boys and staff and now is an ideal time to introduce a small number of changes so as to increase focus and commitment from all participants.

The EA panel believes its obligation is to know that Enterprise grants are being not only spent as intended but also that boys identify activities that reflect individual or small group projects that mirror the principles of the campaign:

***Promoting creativity, adventure, leadership, scientific enterprise & personal initiative.***

To this end the OR panel will no longer accept World Challenge expeditions within Enterprise Awards due to the large number of boys involved but will choose to review such expeditions on merit, within a newly created OR budget. In other words the EA campaign will support boys own specific individual interests rather than pre-organised trips however worthy.

Based on recent experience the panel found that World Challenge applicants varied considerably in the quality of their individual applications and, given the high standards of approach sought by the panel, divisiveness could result. As a consequence, World Challenge participants will be invited to apply for a special OR grant which must be supported by a well organised group presentation during which every participant will need to be involved. For example, this year the EA panel received a very good presentation from 20 boys participating in a World Challenge expedition to Morocco and were awarded £2,000 (£100 per boy).

For the 2010 programme, at least, applications from Year 13 boys will not be invited. When projects for this age group are completed they are no longer schoolboys and there are the concomitant difficulties of following through, obtaining the mandatory reports etc when further education or careers have become the priority.

Consequently, the Enterprise Awards budget will be reduced in 2010 by 15% to £5,000 and an additional budget will be organised for major group initiatives.

Apart from the changes identified, the Enterprise Awards 2010 campaign will be organised as in the past - requiring high standards of on-line application supported by challenging individual projects leading to personal self development in any chosen sphere of meritorious activity.

The timetable requires a full launch in January 2010, applications by Easter and awards to be announced at the start of the Summer Term.

The Enterprise Awards panel will consist of Michael Maule PP (Chairman), the OR President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, School Principal, Captain and Vice Captain. MHWM

## ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2009 – COMPLETED PROJECTS

There have been a number of excellent reports received from 2009 award winners. We particularly liked those from Dominic Burrell, then in 12W, who was awarded £150 for a Hadrian's Wall trek, Ben Sutcliffe then in 12S (£200 for a sea kayaking course at Plas Y Brenin) and Tim Perry, then 12E, who received £100 towards his work experience trip to Limoges.

The report eventually selected for this issue is by Jacob Wellman who was in 11C when he was awarded £150 towards his 2-week course at Summer School.



## **JACT INTENSIVE ANCIENT GREEK SUMMER SCHOOL** by Jacob Wellman

The JACT (Joint Association of Classical Teachers) Ancient Greek Summer School takes place each summer at Bryanston School, Dorset. Each year about 300 students attend for a two-week residential course, during which they are schooled intensively by some of the most accomplished classical academics in the UK, though at varying degrees of difficulty (as shall be explored later).



*A view through the impressive entrance hall at Bryanston School*

I first heard of the school earlier this year, when Principal Weeds approached me and suggested the idea of this course, both as a way to prepare me for the start of year 12 and the new International Baccalaureate course in September, and as an addition to my CV in preparation for the future. I decided this would be a good idea, and set about raising funds for the course – a feat which could not have been accomplished without the generous contribution of the Old Redingensians.

During the course of the two weeks, the school was almost entirely opened to us – the students were fully permitted to make use of the sports facilities, the café, the bar, and many other such amenities besides. We were housed in dorms of two to four people, in one of about six houses scattered around the site.

As far as lessons were concerned, there were three broad categories of ability: Beginner, for those who had little or no experience of Ancient Greek; Intermediate, for those who were working up to GCSE level; and Advanced level, for anyone of GCSE level or above, up to post-graduate level. I was placed in one of the Post-GCSE Advanced groups, along with seven others of equal ability.

Over the course of the fortnight, our class translated a speech by Lysias (“the murder of Eratosthenes”), a book of Homer (“Odyssey Book VI”) and extracts from the Greek Tragedy “Medea”. We also heavily revised and learned Grammar of GCSE and Post-GCSE level. In total, this amounted to about 1,000 lines of translation, and the total amount of work completed was comparable to that of an AS course.

The day included three 1-hour lessons – starting at 9:15, 11:45 and 4:30 – with three full meals a day, and tea/coffee served in the gaps between lessons, which were usually filled with preparation and/or revision for the next lesson. Each day also featured seminars at 2:00, which covered a range of subjects from “Linear B” to “Musicology for classicists”. Each evening featured a voluntary lecture on an equally wide range of topics, such as “The sound of Greek”, and “Indo-European – what is it and how do we know?”

In addition to all this were several extra-curricular activities – a performance of Sophocles’ “Antigone” in English, and Aristophanes’ “Clouds” in the original Ancient Greek, as well as daily excursions to the nearby village of Blandford Forum by minibus, and a concert on the final Thursday evening. These events were joined by coach trips to Dorchester and Salisbury, various sporting tournaments, and a fancy dress party on the first Saturday (themed around G&S, for Greek School).



*Creon addresses his subjects in the reading of Sophocles’ “Antigone”, performed in English on the first Saturday of the course.*

Through attending this course, I believe I have developed a sense of my limits as far as work is concerned: how much work I can do, and how often, et cetera. I have not necessarily been enthused with a desire to carry on Ancient Greek outside of School (since I am already doing so much in year 12), but I have been made aware of how unread I am, and how much knowledge there is in the world. As a result, I am endeavouring to become more well-read, and am already working my way through the Times reading booklist.



*Socrates tries – and fails – to indoctrinate the uneducated Strepsides to his way of thinking in this production of Aristophanes’ “Clouds”, performed in the original Ancient Greek on the final Saturday of the course.*

None of this could have been accomplished without the help of the ORs, to whom I am extremely grateful. I am fully indebted to them, and hope to engage in equally fulfilling collaborations in the future.



## Tracking the Tea Trays No 10



William Bolland was born in 1772 and after Reading School (Dr Valpy's reign commenced in 1781) attended Trinity College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1801 and practised at the Old Bailey. From 1817 to 1829 he was Recorder of Reading. Then, from 1829-39 Baron of the Exchequer. He was one of the eighteen originators of The Roxburghe Club in 1812 – the oldest society of bibliophiles in the world. There is a fine oil of him, by James Lonsdale, in the National Portrait Gallery. KCB

## AGM and Annual Dinner 2009

Saturday, 28 November  
Caversham Heath Golf Club  
Chazey Heath, Mapledurham  
READING RG4 7UT.

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

**Ticket Price £30 (Members only)**  
**(Recent Leavers £20)**

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

Tel: 01491 573431

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



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

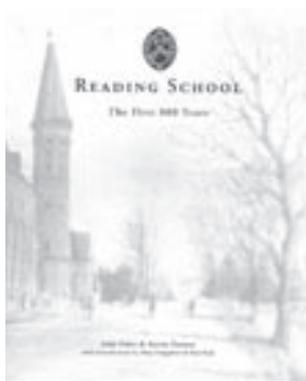
It is available in hardback at £20 post free from The History Press [www.thehistorypress.co.uk](http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk)

## Tracking The Tea Trays No 11



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

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



Born in 1811, in Reading, and a pupil of Dr Valpy at Reading School, Frederic Bulley was described as "a Scholar and a Musician, amiable, sensible, methodical, courteous and of singularly fine and benign appearance". He was particularly successful as President of Magdalen College, Oxford (in which post he succeeded the remarkable Dr Martin Joseph Routh, of whom more in a future issue) in a time of great change which his pacific nature allowed himself to accept "gracefully if not gratefully". Frederic Bulley's eldest brother, Francis, a surgeon and GP, lived near the School all of his professional life. KCB

# Events

## The 20th Annual OR Sussex Reunion Luncheon 25 April 2009



The 20th and last? J W M (Mike) Smith PP (as reported in the editorial of *The Old Redingensian* Spring 2009 issue) is stepping down as organiser after 13 years, during which he and Audrey have made this most pleasant of gatherings even more so – and have undertaken, largely unacknowledged, much hard work and organisation for the sake of other's pleasure.

All who have attended these luncheons will offer grateful thanks to them. (*Mike and Audrey are pictured left.*)

This year, numbers were a little down at 34, and it was a particular regret to those present that the Principal found himself double booked for the day, and so he and Mrs Sarah Weeds were not of the company. Apologies were received from another 14 ORs.

Yet again The Boat House, Amberley (*pictured below*) provided a perfect setting, nestling in its crook of the River Arun, and 'The Crew' served the usual excellent meal with cheerful efficiency. Neil Thomason (*pictured right*), President of the OR Association, gave those present a rundown on the current aims and objectives of the Association, with particular emphasis on the development of the OR website, the Enterprise Awards, and the School Appeal for the 1125 Fund.

The day happened to be the President's 54th birthday and also the 80th birthday of Sussex Luncheon stalwart, Gerald Malkin . Naturally, their blushes were not spared and "*Happy Birthday to You*" was rousingly sung.

Once more the weather was kind and, if this event has reached its natural end, then it will have gone out on a high note. But perhaps there are some who do not intend to let it die.....?  
KCB



## Visit to the Palace of Westminster 16 June 2009



This undoubted highlight of Neil Thomason's Presidential year was arranged on his initiative and at the invitation of Neil and his wife, Kimi (pictured below at the Palace of Westminster).



A party of 29 foregathered at the RAF Club, Piccadilly (left), at 1.00 pm on a pleasant summer's day where, after drinks in the Victoria Bar, a delicious lunch was had in the President's Room (below). The proud history of the Royal Air Force pervades this handsome building, built in the 1800s, and gifted for its present purposes, by Lord Cowdray (who largely financed the extensive reconstructions before the Club was formally opened in 1922).



The majority of those present had travelled up by coach from the Loddon Bridge assembly point at 11.30 am and, just after 3.00 pm, the whole party re-joined the coach for the short journey to the Mother of Parliaments, where a guided tour commenced in the medieval St Stephen's Hall (bottom left) followed by refreshments in the reception room provided for the occasion.



From there, successive groups were able to go and sit in the Visitors' Gallery of the House of Commons to hear the debates of the afternoon. Amongst other speakers, the Rt Hon William Hague, Shadow Foreign Secretary, was at his sparkling best in the exchanges and local (Wokingham) MP, John Redwood, whose son Richard was Captain of School in 2000/01, was also present in the Chamber.

Seven years ago members of the Association enjoyed a House of Lords reception hosted by The Lord Roper, OR. Present on that day was Mark Field, OR, MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, and Mark kindly addressed the company and took a question and answer session in the reception room on this occasion, stepping in for Oliver Heald OR MP for NE Hertfordshire (who had kindly facilitated, and had intended to host, the reception but was unavailable on the day).



Maj Gen Murray Wildman and Lindsay



At 6 pm the party boarded the coach for home after a most enjoyable and interesting outing. KCB

Those present were:

Marilyn Bentley (staff), Rudolph Bissolotti, Ken and Trish Brown, Dudley and Joan Bruton, Ian and Helen Canning, Mike and Judy Evans, Rodney and Jose Huggins, Michael and Matthew Maule, Michael and Susan Mossman, Francis and Elizabeth Pocock, Sandra Provan (staff), Neil and Kimi Thomason, Brian and Marion Titchener, Michael Warren, John Weeds (Principal), Chris and Linda Widdows, Murray and Lindsay Wildman.

## Summer Festival Weekend 4 & 5 July 2009



The attempt to re-establish a regular Summer Festival, in conjunction with the School and against the backdrop of Cricket Week, now that it has been brought into term time, may be judged at the very least a qualified success so far. Congratulations are due to Barrie Shelton, OR Social Secretary, Mike Evans, Cricket Rep and Mrs Marilyn Bentley, School Development Administrator, for the hard work that they put in to the organisation of the weekend.

The marquee erected by the cricket score box was very popular and, on the Saturday particularly, well attended by ORs and their families who were able to eat and drink to the accompaniment of a School jazz band in a very jolly atmosphere on a hot and sunny day. There were picnickers, also, on the perimeter of the School field.

Equally popular were the tours of the School led by former masters at School, John Oakes and Mike Evans, culminating in the Chapel (where, on the Sunday, Director of Music Philip Aspden and Reading

School boy Richard Parkinson (10E) gave a fine organ recital). The West Wing common room was adapted to mount an archive exhibition of *Cricket at Reading School through the Ages*, which included items such as team shields and photographs that have not been on display at School for many years; also in the room was a small exhibition of the colourful and uplifting artwork of the late Rodney Lunn OR.

In conjunction with the exhibitions, copies of *The Old Redingensian* and of John Oakes' various publications (see page 9) were on sale, and membership forms for the Old Redingensians Association available, as they were at the 'Sign Up' facility in the marquee.

The Sunday was not as well attended as the Saturday, and this will need to be addressed for next year when it is also hoped to encourage more spectators to the days of Cricket Week remaining after the Festival Weekend.

A report of Cricket Week can be found on page 32. KCB



The montage of images from the Summer Festival Weekend, shown on page 12, portrays, from left to right;

**Top row:** Part of the archive exhibition; the School XI on the Saturday and Mark Griffiths with Marilyn Bentley  
**Centre row:** John Oakes leading a tour of the School; Barrie Shelton and Peter Chadwick; Rosemary and Ken Mills; the bouncy castle; Chris Bennfors and Kevin Seymour with their wives Caroline and Karen  
**Bottom row:** Richard Parkinson and Philip Aspden; The Air Ambulance over the School Field; another John Oakes party.

## Commemoration Service 16 October 2009

On a beautiful Autumn day Reading School once more remembered its near 900 years with a service of praise and thanksgiving at the Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin, in the Butts.

The service this year had some innovations, including a modern adaptation of the Bidding Prayer and readings that were rather more thought-provoking than usual. The music, under the direction of Mr Philip Aspden was, as in all recent years, inspiring; from the fanfare (composed by Philip) to the organ voluntary by Mr Nicholas Woods.



Mr C J Evans OR (1990-97), the School Chaplain, welcomed the packed congregation in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor and Mrs Fred Pugh, School Governors, Old Redingensians, parents and other guests and rendered the Bidding Prayer. An introductory flourish introduced the first hymn "*All People that on Earth do dwell*" with music arranged by Vaughan Williams; the Principal, Mr John Weeds, then read from *Jeremiah 31 – 'A New Covenant'*.

The singing by the School Choir of the Anthem, "*The Lord's My Shepherd*", with music by the choral composer Bob Chilcott, was hauntingly beautiful.

After prayers, Neil Thomason, President of The Old Redingensians Association, paid his personal tribute to all generations of Reading School boys. His theme was that though human emotions remain unchanged, each succeeding era brings new challenges, in the form of advancing technology. Our exceptional School has enabled these challenges to be understood and met over nearly 900 years and it is our very good fortune that the School is here for all of us today.

The hymn "*All My Hope on God is Founded*" was followed by the School Captain, M C (Matthew) Hill's outstanding reading from Hebrews 11 & 12. The sermon of Father Nicholas Cheeseman, Vicar of All Saints Church, Downshire Square, drew upon that Hebrews reading. He examined the meaning of the word *Race* in the context of the Human Race. One interpretation is that life itself is a race – perhaps a marathon. It should be run to the best of any individual's ability ideally, as Jesus did, but, at the least, each of us should do our best and conduct ourselves with honour.

After the final hymn, "*Lord for the years your love has kept and guided*" and the blessing, the congregation stood whilst the clergy procession, led by the Reverend Canon Brian Shenton, Rector and Vicar of St Mary's, the Mayoral party, and the Principal's guests left the Church. There was a retiring collection in support of the Grace School, Siyabuswa, South Africa. The bells of St Mary's which had rang out in joyous welcome to the service were tolled by Mr I G (Ian) Judd, OR (1962-69), master at School, with seven others (including two parents and another OR, N J (Jim) Diserens (1943-48).

After the service there was a reception in Big School and it was a matter of regret that Mrs Beverley Taylor who, once more, had organised the day so efficiently, was unavoidably absent. KCB



The **Pavilion** from its lowly beginnings as a shed in 1876, through a long existence from 1895 with two gables, had become today's extremely attractive building by 1989 with the addition of a third gable, the change to two flights of steps and the repositioning of the clock tower all funded by appeal money raised as part of the refounding quinqucentenary celebrations of 1986.

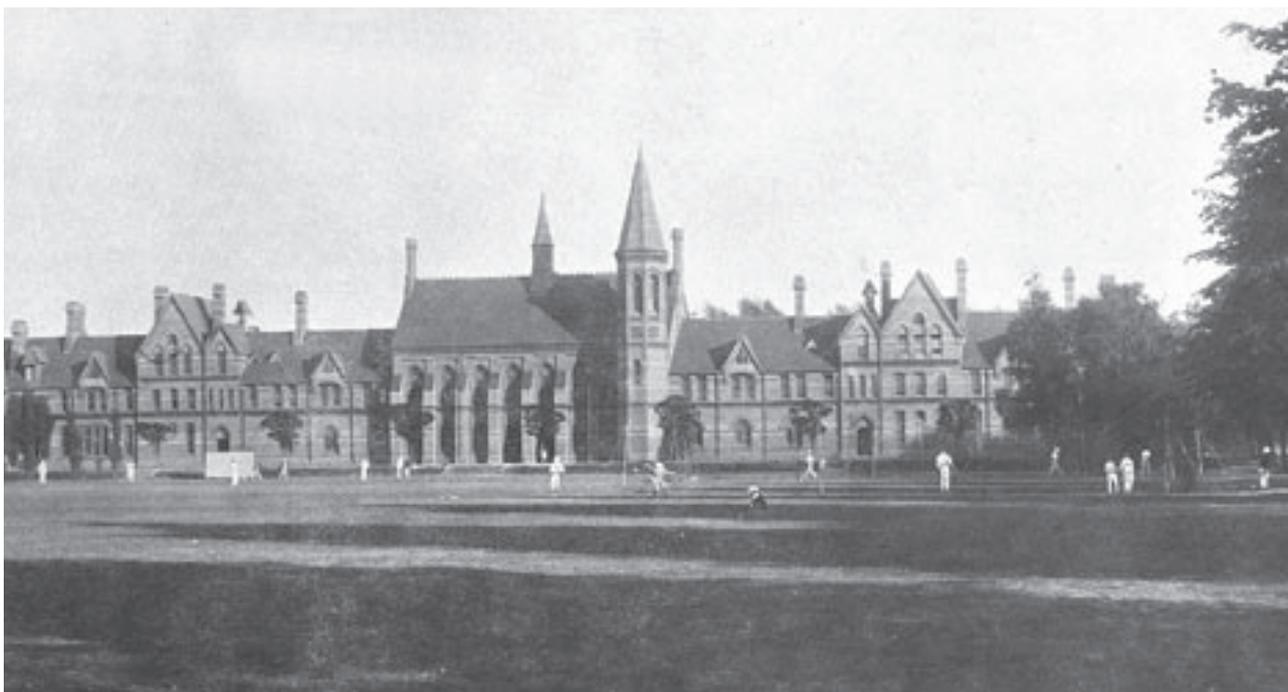


*The Cricket Pavilion – Then and Now*

**Opponents.** Both the MCC match and the fixture against the Berkshire Gentlemen commenced in 1898. The Old Redingensians Cricket Club started in 1926, but Old Boy's matches had been a regular fixture from the early days at Erleigh Road (and perhaps before that). Now Redingensians Cricket Club is 'open' the ancient match is again versus the Old Boys, rather than the Club - this year's match took place on Saturday, 4 July.

Wandering sides such as Incogniti and The Free Foresters often featured in the School fixture list and some of the most entertaining of all matches have occurred in the long series against Masters Invitation XIs - notably J W Haines' XI, B L R Dowse's XI and F H Terry's XI.

The oldest school opponents are Magdalen College School, Oxford - regulars since the 1870s - and they were followed by Abingdon, St Bartholomew's GS, Sir William Borlase, Douai and Leighton Park. Many more distant schools joined the fixture list as travelling conditions improved.



*Cricket on the School Field in the 19th century*



*Cricket on the School Field in the 20th century - (Berkshire v Oxfordshire 18-19 August 1939)*

**School cricket festivals** became a feature on the landscape in the 1970's with School competing, for instance, at the Stowe Festival in 1973 and 1975.

**Tours** have become a major feature of cricket at School in the, modern era. The School's first tour abroad was in 1979 when Canada was visited for 3 weeks. Hong Kong followed in 1984 and nowadays the overseas tour, whilst anticipated with excitement, is not seen as particularly exceptional.

**OR Cricket Week** was first held in 1895 and so has now occurred in three separate centuries. There have been many different opponents but for a great number of years the names of Richmond, South Oxfordshire Amateurs and Romany were usually amongst them. The Law Society and Old Blues were also frequent adversaries as were Berkshire Gentlemen. In recent years Bowdon, from Cheshire, and Kensington have featured. Cricket Week provided an introduction for schoolboy players to the adult game. A number of week-long tours to the Sheffield area of Yorkshire by the London Schoolmasters' XI - captained by R T Black (master at School 1945-58) and with strong playing support from other Reading School masters, W J Streater, F H Terry, S Taylor and J W Haines, was succeeded in the following decade by the Essex Tours of 1962 to 1969 by Masters, ORs and senior boys, led by M Holmes (master at School 1957-65). These tours are still fondly remembered for both on and off field activities.

Opposite is a list of century makers in School fixtures (centuries made on tours have not been included) and a list of bowlers who have taken 7 wickets or more in an innings. (Complete details of A N Gordon's two centuries in 1977 are outstanding.) Later in the magazine, on pages 35 and 36, there are details of how some Reading School players fared in more senior cricket.

KCB



*Cricket on the School Field in the 21st century – 30 June 2001*

## SCHOOL 1ST XI CENTURY MAKERS

Year	Batsman	Total	Opponent
1895	J Hodge	127	Magdalen College School
1897	W Hutt	102	Reading C.C.
1899	H B Corry	155	Leighton Park
1900	J A Yates	114	Old Boys
1904	F A Farquharson	104*	Warwick School
1906	O R Nares	168	Newbury C C
1913	H P Dymore-Brown	101*	Warwick School
1918	L E Saxby	102*	Sir William Borlase School
1928	C A Woodeson	103	Old Boys
1930	H E Dollery	103	M C C
1931	H E Dollery	111*	Suttons C C
1932	H E Dollery	104*	M.C.C.
	H E Dollery	106	Whitgift School
1937	C R Tice	113	Rutlish
1939	J Caudle	100	Whitgift School
1942	T J Easby	114*	Newbury G S
1944	P Lincoln-Gordon	109*	Archbishop Tennison's School
	G E J Grant	102*	R D Morbey's XI
1952	M E Howe-Jones	113	Emanuel School
1953	H B M Birchnell	138	Emanuel School
1957	P A Merrett	100*	B L R Dowse's XI
1958	D I Hill	103*	F H Terry's XI
	D I Hill	132*	M C C
1959	G E Day	103	Berkshire Gentlemen
1960	C D C Councell	101*	Leighton Park
1962	H J Townson	100	Berkshire Gentlemen
1964	J A Scholfield	155	Emanuel School
1965	J A Scholfield	109*	Berkshire Gentlemen
1966	J A Scholfield	125	Emanuel School
	J A Scholfield	115	Berkshire Gentlemen
1967	R S Alexander	117	M C C
1969	N J Barton	112	J W Haines' XI
1975	S A Turner	100*	St Bartholomew's School

Year	Batsman	Total	Opponent
	S A Turner	108	Wellington College
1977	A N Gordon	106*	
	A N Gordon		
1978	A F M Simpkins	113*	Colchester RGS
1983	D G Purslow	121	Abingdon School
1984	D G Purslow	109*	Oratory School
	D G Purslow	160	Berkshire Gentlemen
	J E Grimsdale	109	Colchester R G S
1985	A N S Hampton	100	Reading Blue Coat School
1986	J E Grimsdale	108	Lord Wandsworth College
1987	O D Beckett	102*	Shiplake College
	T J C Dance	123*	Leighton Park
1988	T J C Dance	111*	Lord Wandsworth College
	O D Beckett	119*	Colchester R G S
	O D Beckett	102*	Reading Blue Coat School
1989	P J G Darlow	105	Old Boys
1991	A Clouting	102	Reading Blue Coat School
	A Clouting	108	Berkshire Gentlemen
1996	D Lowe	100*	Berkshire Gentlemen
	I Azuika	109*	Old Boys
1998	A Bindra	100*	Reading Blue Coat School
	M Leary	113*	Berkshire Gentlemen
	M Leary	139	Berkshire Gentlemen
1999	A Bindra	152*	Old Boys
2001	M Bushell	154	Abingdon School
2003	T G Burrows	125*	Desborough School
2005	A Davidson	107	Aylesbury GS
2006	A Davidson	119*	Berkshire Gentlemen
	M Carson	122*	Windsor Boys School
	M Carson	112*	MCC
2007	M Carson	114*	Windsor Boys School
2008	M Carson	103	Abingdon School
	M Wright	105	MCC

## SCHOOL 1st XI BOWLERS WITH 7 WICKETS OR MORE IN AN INNINGS

Year	Bowler	Figures	Opponent
1907	Dance	7 for 25	ISC Windsor
1914	W M Cooper	7 for 87	Old Boys
	W M Cooper	7 for 32	Warwick School
	W M Cooper	7 for 13	Leighton Park
	W M Cooper	9 for 64	Berkshire Wanderers CC
1915	W M Cooper	7 for 26	Douai
	W M Cooper	7 for 28	Douai
	W M Cooper	7 for 32	Whitgift School
1916	A E H Blazey	8 for 44	St Bartholomew's GS
1919	R A Bonberry	9 for 24	King Alfred's, Wantage
1923	R F Gibson	7 for 52	M C C
1924	L W Spratley	8 for 23	Leighton Park
1926	L W Spratley	7 for 15	Old Redingians
1928	N W Baylis	7 for 3	Chichester HS
	E G L Cox	8 for 13	Old Redingians
1934	N W Harding	9 for 8	St Bartholomew's GS
	N W Harding	9 for 59	MCC
1940	R D Morbey	7 for 27	Oratory School
1941	D H Easby	8 for 30	Bedford Modern School
1942	D H Easby	8 for 43	L D Sear's XI
	D H Easby	7 for 13	Archbishop Tennison's School
1944	J V Martin	7 for 15	Douai
1945	G D Draper	7 for 23	Churcher's College
	G D Draper	7 for 96	Berkshire Gentlemen
1946	G D Draper	7 for 89	Oratory School
1947	G D Draper	7 for 38	Oratory School

Year	Bowler	Figures	Opponent
	G D Draper	7 for 70	Beaumont College
1951	M E Howe-Jones	8 for 38	Abingdon School
	M E Howe-Jones	8 for 21	Oratory School
	D F Shelmerdine	9 for 56	Old Boys
1956	R A Ruskin	7 for 80	M C C
1957	R A Ruskin	7 for 43	Rutlish School
1959	F C Baines	7 for 20	Douai
1962	D J Foster	7 for 17	Parents' XI
1963	R F B Orton	7 for 32	Beaumont College
1964	H J Townson	8 for 25	Lord Wandsworth College
	R F B Orton	7 for 54	Old Redingians
1965	M N Calvert	7 for 17	Leighton Park
1966	M N Calvert	7 for 37	Leighton Park
1967	R S Alexander	7 for 32	Magdalen College School
1971	D J G Harvey	7 for 50	J W Haines' XI
1974	D Fullbrook	7 for 50	MCC
1978	D J Harris	9 for 33	Abingdon School
1980	H Mason	7 for 42	St Bartholomew's School
1986	J S Pritchard	9 for 8	Oratory School
1987	J S Pritchard	7 for 23	Radley II
	J S Pritchard	8 for 34	Pangbourne Nautical College
1988	T J C Dance	7 for 22	Leighton Park
1989	T J C Dance	7 for 33	Pangbourne Nautical College
	T J C Dance	8 for 58	Abingdon School
2004	T Vaal	8 for 35	Eton College III



# The School Campaign For the 1125 fund



(Readers will note the retitling, above, of this initiative and of Mrs Bentley's job description, below)

**The Development Board has been constituted and consists of the following personnel:**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Chairman: Mrs Claire Toms  | School Governor                               |
| Dr P C H (Philip) Mitchell | Chairman of School Governors                  |
| Mr R P (Rodney) Huggins    | Chairman Reading Foundation                   |
| Mr M H W (Michael) Maule   | Past President, Old Redingensians Association |
| Mr N R (Neil) Thomason     | President, Old Redingensians Association      |
| Mr J I (John) Weeds        | Principal, Reading School                     |

A parent representative will be appointed in November. Mrs Marilyn Bentley attends the Board in her capacity of Development Officer.

The Spring 2009 issue of The Old Redingensian detailed, on page 16, the three phased objectives for which the 1125 fund has been established. This issue concentrates on Phase 1, which OFSTED has called for to be implemented without delay.

**PHASE 1 A dining facility. The proposal is to convert the covered area of the Quadrangle for this purpose. *Estimated cost is £1,450,000* *Time Scale Immediate***

An amount of £700,000 has so far been raised and the plans passed by English Heritage. Further information can be obtained from the School's website (see contact details below).



**Above:** the architect's impression of the proposed new Refectory in the Quadrangle.

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



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

# The Principal's Letter



**The academic year has started on a fine note with some excellent examination results in the summer and exciting events throughout September related to our new Science specialism. After a record-breaking year in 2008, our A-level students again excelled by achieving an even better result this year by gaining A-B grades in 91% of examinations entered. Our GCSE students also improved on the previous year by gaining 81% A-A\* grades.**

It was therefore doubly rewarding to launch our new specialism this term with prestigious events organised by senior colleagues. Firstly, Cambridge University poet Ruth Padel came to speak to an audience of Biology, English and Classics students on the topic of the life of Charles Darwin, her great-, great-grandfather. Her story was told through the medium of poems she had written on the subject and was very well-received by an attentive audience, which also included girls from the Holt School and Kendrick.

Later in the month, Prof Kevin Warwick from Reading University came to School to give two lectures to our Year 7 boys and local primary pupils from EP Collier and St John's schools and, later in the day, to our Sixth Form scientists on the subject of Robotics. His demonstration of robot technology in action and descriptions of the operations he himself has undergone to implant microcomputers into his own body proved fascinating to all who attended.

All in all, the beginning of the Science specialism era has started most auspiciously. We look forward to the visit of Ross Brawn OR (1966-71) later in the term with much anticipation. At around the same time we will find out if we have been successful in our bid to secure funding from the Wolfson Foundation to construct an astronomical observatory. Confirmation that we had, would be a fitting climax to a term of great scientific endeavour!

On the School Development front I am delighted to announce that there has been significant progress in recent months. It is very pleasing to see the 1125 Campaign gain momentum and create such a 'buzz'. As you may know, our Masterplan for development of the School site, as a whole, has been approved by English Heritage and we now have permission to work on the first of the key phases – a dining facility. ORs Neil Thomason, Rodney Huggins and Michael Maule have been particularly prominent in supporting me and the Board in getting this off the ground.

As you will see on the opposite page, initial drawings have been produced by the architects and we now await tenders for the Design Phase itself. We now know we have to find £750,000 in the next year if we are to ensure that the Refectory can go ahead as planned. A concerted effort is being made with our parents, business partners and the Local Authority and has already proved fruitful.

I attended the OR Council meeting early in October to describe in more detail how we can continue to work together on turning plans into reality. One thing is for sure: the ORs are vital to the success of the Campaign. Together, as a School we are stronger and better prepared to deal with whatever the future may hold. I will have further news at the Annual Dinner on 28 November.

I am also pleased to report that a new two-classroom modular building on the Addington Road boundary has been completed in an extraordinarily short space of time. Please visit the website to view photographs of the crane in operation lowering the building onto its foundations in sections. The shape of things to come perhaps?

Floreat Redingensis!  
John Weeds  
Principal



# School News

The School's status remains that of a selective grammar school, within the state system, providing free tuition for day boys within the Reading Area and for weekly boarders.

Office holders for the 2009-10 School year are:

Captain of School:	M C (Matthew) Hill (C) ( <i>opposite left</i> )
Vice Captain of School	A B (Ben) Morris (S) ( <i>opposite right</i> )
Captain of School House	E M (Eliot) Pallot
Captain of County House	S J (Simon) Richards
Captain of East House	J W (James) Bradford
Captain of West House	D M (Dominic) Burrell



Captain of Rugby	Ben Sessions
Captain of Football	Rob Clark
Captain of Boats	Sam Fitchett
CCF Senior Cadets	Army: Sgt Simon Titulaer, Sgt Andrew Warby RAF: Flt Sgt William Atkins

The teaching staff comprise the Principal, Vice Principal, and three Assistant Principals as their Senior Leadership. There are then seven College Leaders for the various disciplines and 64 other teaching staff (31 males 33 females) including the various heads and deputy heads of departments. The four houses are headed by;

School	Mrs J M Green
East Wing Housemaster	Mr B D Coggan
South House Housemaster	Mr R W Lewis
County	Mrs L Hall
East	Mrs S J Coull
West	Mr M R Cooper

The 28 associate staff cover the Administrative Department, the Finance Department, Estates and Property, Community Relations, Learning Resource Centre, IT Support, Lab Technicians and the two Boarding House matrons.

Reading School and Abbey School Music Departments held an extremely successful joint concert on 6 May at St Giles Church courtesy of the incumbent, Father Michael John Gervase Melrose. The programme included Handel's 'Music for the Royal Fireworks' and 'Zadok the Priest'; Purcell's 'Come, ye Sons of Art'; and Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass'. The combined choir of approximately 120 and the combined orchestra of approximately 60 were supplemented by Abbey Strings and Reading Brass. This spectacular evening was arranged by Philip Aspden, Director of Music at School and his Abbey School counterpart Stephen Willis. (A sad postscript: Father Melrose who had declared that the programme contained "the best music I have ever heard in my church" died in July)

Mr Clive Cousins MA Scholar of Exeter College, Oxford, Master at School since 1972 in the Chemistry Department and latterly Director of Studies, retired at the end of School Year 2008-09. He was 10 years as Housemaster of West Wing and 18 years Housemaster of County. As Wing Commander Cousins, Clive was also a former officer commanding the Reading School Contingent of the Combined Cadet Force. The image of him, *right*, was taken on Field Day, 19 October 2006 in the Aldershot Training Area. The Association wishes him a long and happy retirement in Salisbury (where, amongst other things, he plans to become a volunteer guide in the Cathedral).





After five years at School, Mr D R W Carrick BSc, *pictured*, has left and is now Director of Sport at Worth School, in Turners Hill, Sussex. The Association wishes Darren success in his new post and thanks him for his helpful and cheerful co-operation with ORs over the last few years.

Mr A Beckey is now Director of Sport at School.

The School has commenced this term to teach the International Baccalaureate as an alternative choice to A Levels in the Sixth Form. It has also been a specialist humanities college for three years - now it has acquired a second specialism in science; on the launch day in October Professor Kevin Warwick gave a talk on his work in the field of artificial intelligence control and bio-medical engineering.

The School's long running Comenius Project has drawn to a close. This involved participation in environmental work (led by Head of Science, Mrs M C Maunder), in co-operation with schools in Belgium, Germany, Norway and Poland.

The following gained places at Oxford and Cambridge:

#### Oxford

Joshua Baldwin: **Merton** (Classics)  
 David Foxwell: **Jesus** (Chemistry)  
 David Fudge: **St Hilda's** (Economics)  
 Jem Gummosoy: **Worcester** (Economics)  
 Aidan Hempson-Jones: **New** (PPE)  
 Michael Hodgkinson: **Brasenose** (PPE)  
 Ben Lo: **St John's** (Chemistry)  
 Charles O'Halloran: **Regent's Park** (Geog)  
 Joel Richardson: **Exeter** (English)

#### Cambridge

Andrew Crawford: **Caius** (Natural Sciences)  
 Martin Hailstone: **Clare** (Natural Sciences)  
 Tim Kennett: **Downing** (English)  
 James Moore: **Churchill** (Natural Sciences)  
 Kryshnan Patel-Parker: **Homereton** (Economics)  
 Leo Shine: **King's** (Maths)  
 Nicholas Skehin: **Robinson** (Computer Science)  
 Jack Stockdale: **Robinson** (Vet. Science)  
 Tom Talbot: **Downing** (Medicine)  
 Matthew Wagner: **Jesus** (Engineering)

James Austin in Year 13 came in the top twelve students nationally in the Biology Olympiad.

The Cock House Cup for 2009 was won by West House captained by Jamie Scuffell. A generally successful Cricket season had as its highlight the defeat of the MCC (see rear cover). The football team retained the Berkshire Schools Cup and also reached the last 16 of the National Schools' Competition, losing narrowly to the eventual winners. In the summer holidays there was a highly successful rugby tour to New Zealand by the First XV and U/16XV – a full report will appear in the spring 2010 issue.

Ruth Padel, resident Poet at Christ's College, Cambridge visited the School to talk about her poetry and her great great grandfather, Charles Darwin.

Two Year 13 boys, David Edwards and Michael Hodgkinson, spent their summer holiday helping with projects at Grace School, Siyabuswa, South Africa, where former RS Chaplain Rev Dr. N Applegate, now works.

Sixth formers, with Mr A J Fermor of the Technology Department, are engaged in the restoration of a 1903 slate wagon at Didcot Railway Centre.

With thanks to those members of staff, particularly Mr E S Holt, who supplied information to enable this section to be compiled. Contributions, for the Spring 2010 issue should be sent to School Liaison correspondent Mr J M Evans, 1 Skerritt Way, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, RG8 8DD. Telephone: 0118 942 4578.

**Our tailpiece, a 360 degree panorama by Chris Widdows, is the result of using a procedure outlined by D R T (David) Sherwill (1943-49) – David is a retired professional photographer now living in Cyprus – who challenged Chris to make the attempt and print it in The Old Redingensian.**



# THREE WEST WINGERS



This splendid image was caught by a street photographer sometime in, probably, 1949. It was taken in the vicinity of Leicester Square – the book shown (*Handpicked Howlers* by Cecil Hunt) had just been bought at Foyles. P R (Peter) Beavan (1943-48) on the left; J G (John) Dowse (1939-48) centre; and D A S (David) Ravens (1944-48) right, had all been in West Wing together. (Peter was Captain of the Wing and Vice Captain of School; David, a School Prefect, won an Open Exhibition to Jesus College, Oxford – Ed.) John's death (see Obituary on p. 46) brought forth this photograph with an interchange which we reproduce:

**David:** I first met John (Benny) Dowse when I entered West Wing in January 1944; he was in L IV and I was in U IVM.

**Peter:** I joined them in West Wing in 1945, having been a day-boy until then. (Peter was in East in his first year, then County until he became a Boarder – Ed.)

**David:** Benny (the only people who called him John were his parents) gained five distinctions in School Certificate, the expected ones in Maths and the Sciences, but the one that gave him the most pleasure was in American History. He entered the Sc VI and eventually, as a House monitor, he shared a study with the two of us. Although academically gifted he was also liable to do some surprising things outside the classroom – he lost the bolt of his rifle on a Field Day yet led his Boarders Section to the Section Cup! His most spectacular act was in the freezing

winter of 1947 (the frost grew on the *inside* of the windows) when he collected all the Sunday newspapers and set fire to them in the study!

**David:** Before he left the 3rd year VI he gained a scholarship to Reading University, and after National Service (spent in the Navy at Rosyth) he achieved the expected First. He stayed on for a short time but left to join de Havilland aircraft at Hatfield.

**Peter:** After National Service, apart from the three of us meeting, I think, at an OR cricket match – I lost touch with both, but David kept up the connection with Benny.

**David:** He usually attended OR dinners but last time that I met him was at the Chapel Service to mark the closure of West Wing. (John provided the copy for this in *The Old Redingensian News Letter* of Sept. 1998 and David conducted a service of Evening Song in the Chapel – the day will be remembered by many – Ed)

**Both the Reverend David Ravens and Peter Beavan are now retired (Peter was a Stock Exchange consultant) and we thank them for providing the Journal with such compelling material. KCB**

# The Royal Berkshire Regiment



Although these articles concern the Regular Army Battalions until amalgamation with the Wiltshires in 1959 David Downs (1952-59) – see *Commentary* on page 37– points out that the TA 4/6th Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment continued at Brock Barracks until 1967 (when they became The Wessex Volunteers).

Dave Norris (1953-60), visiting the School for the Summer Festival, made the same point: he joined around the same time as David Downs and John Stevens (1952-59) and his enlisting officers were Chris Yeats (1943-54) and, he thinks, Chris Smallbone (1944-54).

Our register of names is growing apace. Amongst those who have written in is Robin Edgar (1940-49) who, when he did National Service (1949-51) was commissioned into the Royal Berks although he never served with the Battalion; Robin was, he says, “in the Canal Zone having a cushy time in Port Said”.

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In recognition of the regimental gallantry in the field at Tofrek in the Sudan (and against the background of the stand at Maiwand five years earlier), the designation **Royal** was granted; readers not familiar with, but interested in the Regiment may like to investigate this, and other aspects peculiar to the Regiment, for instance::

**The Brandywine distinction;** A red backing to the cap badge or a scarlet plume-shaped flash on hat or shoulder in memory of the dying of hat plumes red in the Americas.

The playing of **Rule Britannia** after the regimental march and before *The Queen*; In commemoration of Copenhagen.

The appellation **Princess Charlotte of Wales's Regiment**; A reward bestowed upon the Regiment by the Princess for guarding her at Weymouth.

**The China Dragon;** The device awarded the regiment for distinguished conduct and gallantry in the Opium War

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Many ORs served with the Regiment and, of course, many also died in the service of their country. The period 1881-1914 will be dealt with in a future issue. (Incidentally, a number of ORs served with the Berkshire Yeomanry in this period and also in both World Wars, but that is another story.) This issue records those below who, we presently know, lost their lives during the First World War. We acknowledge particularly *Old School Ties – Educating for Empire and War* as a source of this information; the excellent book, written by John Oakes, PP, Master at School (1971-97) and Dr Martin Parsons OR (1963-70) and published in 2001.

## **Captain R G T Moody Ward, killed in action 9 May 1915 aged 27**

Richard Guy Torrington Moody Ward (1895-96) was in the 2nd Battalion and his name is on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

## **Captain G Belcher MC, killed in action 15 May 1915, aged 29**

Gordon Belcher was a Cambridge MA and a Master at School from 1907-1910. He played cricket for Berkshire (see page 36). He was in the 3rd Battalion (attached to the 1st) when he was killed, evidently at Richebourg).

**Second Lieutenant H Cohen, killed in action 18 July 1915, aged 19**

Cohen was in the 8th Service Battalion and had been at School from 1908-12.

**Lieutenant W G Haynes, killed in action 25 September 1915, aged 24**

William Gray Haynes (see page 38) was at School 1899 -08, an all round Sportsman who broke the mile record. He died serving with the 8th Battalion at Loos.

**Second Lieutenant J W V Blazey, killed in action 26 Sept 1915, aged 18**

John William Victor Blazey was at School from 1909-13 and played for both 1st XI and 1st XV. He was in the 1st Battalion and died on the second day of the Battle of Loos.

**Captain J C James, died of wounds 14 July, 1916, aged 40**

At School from 1891-95, Joe Conquest James was in the 5th Battalion and wounded in the Battle of the Somme. The Reading Mercury reported that he was a horseman, who had also served in the Berkshire Royal Horse Artillery and, during the South African War, Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry.



*Eric Baseden (1894-1916)*

**Second Lieutenant H P Sadler, killed in action 19 July 1916, aged 20**

Hereward Pattison Sadler (1908-13) was in the 1st XV at School. He died at the Battle of the Somme, serving with the 6th Battalion.

**Second Lieutenant C J Fuller, killed in action 22 July 1916, aged 19**

Cyril John Fuller (1909-12) was with the 6th Battalion and was a casualty of the Somme. He was an all-round athlete at School and a member of Reading Rowing Club.

**Second Lieutenant F A L Edwards MC, died of wounds 10 August 1916, aged 23**

Edwards was at School from 1904-11. He was in the 5th Battalion and is buried at Puchvilliers British Cemetery, Somme.

**Lieutenant E Baseden, killed in action 26 October 1916, aged 22**

Eric Baseden (1908-13) three years in the 1st XV and Captain of the 1st XI, left School in 1913 and was in the 3rd Battalion, but attached to the 2nd when killed leading his platoon.

**Second Lieutenant C T Hatt, killed in action 12 October 1917, aged 33**

Charles Todd Hatt was at School from 1896-1901 and his name is on the Tyne Cott Memorial, Zonnebeck.

**Second Lieutenant W V Knowles, killed in action 31 December 1917, aged 20**

Walford Vernon Knowles (1909-16) was in both the 1st XI and 1st XV and Captain of School. He was in the 3rd Battalion, attached 2nd Battalion and is buried at Poelcapelle.

**Captain F S Brain, killed in action 3 October 1918, aged 24**

Frances Sydney Brain was at School from 1901-07. At the time of his death he was attached to the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

**Captain S J Hawkes, died 10 July 1918, aged 23**

Septimus James Hawkes (1909-12) died suddenly in Barracks at Dublin and is buried in Reading Cemetery. He had served and been wounded in France

KCB

# Reading School - Some Random Recollections (Part 2)

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



This photograph shows the hated headgear – the ‘jampots’ that the author wrote about in Part I. It was taken outside South House (then School House) and as the School was at that time about 180 strong, maybe shows the boarders of that House. Though we cannot presently identify the individuals, some of the Masters that Van Wart writes about are probably in the back row and perhaps, Van Wart himself somewhere in the picture (though it does not appear to be the photograph on the **terrace** that he refers to below. The Headmaster, Rev William Walker, “grey bearded and breezy”, could be – almost certainly is – the figure under the awning on the left – now read on...

**During the years** of which I have been writing, 1881 to 1886, two events of more than usual interest occurred. The first was in 1882 or 1883; Edward, Prince of Wales, came to Reading for an agricultural show, if I remember rightly, and took the opportunity of paying a flying visit to the School. He drove up in a carriage to the accompaniment of our loyal cheers, as we stood on the terrace close to the iron gates of the School; the visit was a brief one, but it brought us, by royal desire, an extra week’s holiday, and the occasion was further commemorated by a School group, photographed on the terrace; I find myself in this a small knicker-bockered figure, with a clean

collar and unbarbered hair, sitting cross-legged on the ground in the front row and very obviously unpleasantly conscious of the sun in my eyes. The second of these happenings was the celebration of the 400th (*ie of the refounding by Henry VII – Ed*) anniversary of the School at the end of the summer term of 1885; a large marquee was put up just in front of the cricket pavilion - another Sunday haunt of the smoking fraternity - the proceedings opened with a luncheon and speechifying, after which came prize-giving. The occasion was especially memorable to me as it brought me my first prize after three years of figuring as runner-up to the prize- winners in my form.

The marquee served another good purpose; on the day before the celebrations the first XI were playing a cricket match and G H Bishop, who, with the elder Greenfield and one, W A, of the numerous Lowsleys, was a mainstay of the team, was in the nineties; he made a lofty hit to square leg and the fieldsman ran a few yards, got the ball well in his hands, tripped over one of the tent ropes and dropped the catch, to our great delight allowing Bishop to complete his hundred.

### MEMORIES OF 'BLACK PETER'

We now come to the French master, J Eugene Bentley, the only member of the staff who was non-resident; he lived on Southern Hill. He was a good teacher, but could without much difficulty be beguiled into spending a considerable part of an hour in discoursing to us on topics in general and the fine characteristics of J Eugene Bentley in particular. One virtue to which he invariably laid claim was that of never losing his temper; he prided himself on being a calm dispenser of justice; but, protest he never so loudly, there were certain boys who had the power of 'drawing' him almost at will. The eldest Stallwood was one and a boy named Fox in the Upper Fifth was another; Bentley would enumerate the boy's misdeeds and Fox would sit staring fixedly at the speaker who gradually worked himself into a state of fury, his black beard wagging faster and faster, while his face took on a livid hue and the tip of his nose grew white; suddenly like a whirlwind Bentley would hurl himself at the boy smiting furiously at his ears, which came to little hurt as Fox had covered them with his arms, until the storm exhausted itself and 'quiet calm deliberation' reigned once more. In those days the housemasters alone of the staff were those who, beside the Head, possessed the power of the cane. Bentley, however, provided himself with an efficient substitute in the shape of 'Black Peter'. This was a black ruler between two and three feet long, thicker at one end than the other, and "everywhere that Bentley went Peter was sure to go". An offender was called out into the middle of the classroom floor, and bidden to bend over and examine a crack in the floor, whereupon he received six of the best and after that, particularly if the thin end had been applied, sitting on a hard form was far from comfortable for a time. Another of Bentley's pleasing little ways, when a boy was standing by his desk having some work corrected, was to emphasise mistakes by a sudden hard grab at the thigh muscle; this was known as the 'Bentley bite', and it hurt.

### LICKING A BULLY

Other masters who come to mind during these years are 'Bobby' Reynolds, very popular, a good cricketer and excellent Rugger player; Reilly, a well-liked, hot-tempered Irishman who, on one occasion knocked

down a big bully in the School House prep room, and on another nearly blew up and gassed a class when giving a demonstration of how to make carbon monoxide; there was another, Robert Davis, who did the hat-trick once and whose peculiar bowling action earned him the nickname of 'Pro'. He rejoiced in another and better known nickname, 'Bob Wuzzo', which came from his Christian name and his way of pronouncing "It came to pass that it was so". On one occasion he caught a boy who shouted "Pro" down



*Southern Hill, where Eugene Bentley lived, became the site of the Junior School which was located in this building.*

the corridor and said "I do not mind being called Bob Wuzzo, but I will not be called a Pro!" The numbers of the School were considerably swelled by the Edwards and Phillips contingents, each of which contributed six, though not all from the same family; there were several Lowsleys, Heelases, Sherwoods, and other well-known Reading names. One boy, one of the best athletes ever turned out by the School, was Frank Deane, who was in the cricket eleven when very young; afterwards he played cricket for Oxfordshire for many years and captained the Reading Football team until they turned professional, when he was largely instrumental with Alderman A W A Webb in starting the Reading Amateur FC; he got many Berks and Bucks caps and one South cap.

### WHEN THE HEAD WAS STUMPED

And now, at long last, we come to the Head, Dr. William Walker. He had a breezy way with him and I used to be fascinated by the way his grey beard wagged as he talked; when the Upper Fifth was in No 4 classroom he was occasionally late for a lesson and used to come breezing across from the School House with his gown bellying behind him in the wind, causing the boy who was 'keeping cave' at the window to cry "A sail! A sail!" He was a delightfully picturesque teacher of Scripture, but in mathematics,

his main subject of instruction, there were unkind folk who were inclined to be critical. It is certainly true that, when the form proved incapable of solving a problem in algebra, he would proceed with a flourish to demonstrate on the blackboard how it should be done; sometimes, probably much oftener than not, he did demonstrate, to our satisfaction and his own; but there were times, tell it not in Gath - or Reading - when a hitch occurred; then the invariable procedure was for the worthy divine to consult the answer in the text-book; whereupon, *mirabile dictu* (I am getting carried away by memories from mathematics into 'the classics'), he wrote on the board *componendo et dividendo* (O! blessed formula), and behold! in two lines the problem was solved.

### **BULLYING IN SCHOOL HOUSE**

But in spite of all this the hours in his form were always stimulating and likely to produce the unexpected, as, for instance, when he once congratulated me, at the age of 12 or 13, on a holiday task essay on 'Home Rule for Ireland', which was never shown up and was reposing between the leaves of my Latin composition book. Would that his management of the School House had been equal to his teaching of the Scriptures; but it must be admitted that there he was slack, if not worse than slack. Bullying had been rife in the House for some years and at last some of the staff discovered and reported a thoroughly bad state of affairs, which demanded a number of expulsions. An exhaustive inquiry was held but, to general consternation, the Head refused to give any punishment save of the mildest nature. The staff, excluding Bentley, demanded sundry cleansings of the Augean stable; whereupon the staff, excluding Bentley, received their congés from the Head who, with the faithful Bentley, in turn received his from the governing body. Owing to the facts having been made public the School dwindled straight away from 170 or so to about 35, which remnant was kept together by probably the best and certainly the best loved of all Reading School masters, dear old Robert Newport, now alas! no longer with us.

### **ROBERT NEWPORT**

He saw the School through the debacle of 1886. For two or three terms the remnants of the School were kept together by Newport, who began a period of close on forty years of devoted service to the School. Many indeed are the Old Boys who owe him a great debt of gratitude and in whose hearts his memory will be ever green. In 1887 Francis Pierrepont Barnard was appointed Headmaster with Newport as his chief of staff, and very wise and able was his rule under conditions which might well have daunted a lesser man. Unassuming as he appeared, he possessed great dignity which impressed, and although apparently rather cold and aloof he revealed a kind

and very human personality to those who cared to look for it. Slowly the numbers grew and the School began to find its feet again, but some idea of the position may be got from the fact that in 1889 the top form was the iv<sup>th</sup> classical; in reality it contained boys who normally would have been distributed among the iv<sup>th</sup>, v<sup>th</sup> and vi<sup>th</sup>, but the necessarily small staff did not permit of so many forms. Other members of the staff at that time were the Rev Huskisson Adrian, who lived in the West Wing - the East Wing was closed save for one set of rooms on the top floor, where C M Jessopp, bracketed 5th Wrangler (*at the University of Cambridge, students who completed the third year of the Mathematical Tripos with first-class honours were ranked from 'Senior Wrangler' downwards. A high ranking was a considerable distinction - Ed*) and afterwards H V Plum lived - E W Clayforth and H Diemer, whose period of service was about equal to that of Newport, and who really made the Lower School what it is today (*Herbert Diemer MA Christ's College, Cambridge was Senior Assistant Master when he retired in 1926 after 37 years service - Ed*). In 1889 there was a small, a very small lower school, which had its headquarters on Southern Hill, with Miss Griffiths, a lady from Girton, as its Head.



*Junior Schoolboys at Southern Hill*

### **OWEN NARES AND OTHER CELEBRITIES**

Besides these, for a few terms, W O Nares, father of Owen Nares, was a member of the Staff; a fine, handsome man he used to excite our admiration by playing cricket in a monocle; Owen himself was at the School a little later and would in all probability have got his cricket blue had he gone up to the 'Varsity but, luckily for the stage and the public, he decided on another career, and no one who saw him on Speech Days at School can have been surprised at the fame he has won. There were only about ten boarders, all in the School House, so it is not surprising that very few cricket or Soccer matches were played for a time; indeed the year 1888-9 was the first in which



we really made a fresh start. I well remember a match on the School ground about halfway through the Christmas term; the ball was near our goal at the Erleigh Road end; I tried to kick it and so did an opponent; I got the ball and he got me behind the ankle with a crack which

brought Sergeant Byrne running down from the far goal line and expecting to find me with a broken leg; there was no break, but also no more football for me until the next term. The only schools we played at football were Abingdon and Magdalen College School, and our star performers were W M Greenfield, Lanny Austin, Leonard and Arthur Sherwood. Greenfield, who died at a regrettably early age, was a fine all-rounder. He was a very useful forward at Soccer, full of pluck and dash, first-class at fives, a good runner and a brilliant cricketer; with a little of Austin's steadiness he would have been good enough for any side, as it was he played for Berkshire; after leaving School he became a more than useful Rigger three-quarter. Another good forward was J H Stevens, whose younger brother S H, would doubtless have kept wicket for Cambridge had he not abandoned that arduous post in order to save his hands; he was also expected to get a Rigger blue at three-quarter, but he gave up the game for hockey, at which he afterwards captained Cambridge and played for England.

#### DODGING 'PREP'

The gym was in the charge of Colour-Sergt Burling (to use the old rank) and Sergt Byrne. The School was represented in the Public Schools gymnastic and boxing contests in 1889 and 1890; Greenfield and Austin represented us in gymnastics in 1889; Greenfield and L Sherwood were our pair in 1890, with Austin boxing in the light-weight, which he would by common consent have won if he had trained more strenuously. At cricket, so far as I remember, the only school we played was Abingdon in those years, and in our other matches had to call on the help of Newport, Nares, Grover, who was School Porter for so many years (*45 years to 1927 – Ed*), and sometimes Clamp, the pro; our strength, or weakness, may be judged from there being only two colours, Greenfield and Austin, to start the season with, and three more only were given that season, to 'Trotter' Heelas

(why were all Heelases 'Trotter'?), myself and A N Other, if he will forgive my treacherous memory (see *editorial – the School magazine was dormant so the task of identifying A N Other is doubly difficult – Ed*). In the summer term the monotony of School life was lightened for the iv<sup>th</sup> classical; our classical master, Clayforth, had a serious illness and was away all the term. An old boy, X shall we say, of distinguished attainments stepped into the breach. He was a man impatient of his work and had no use for the methods of the rank and file of the form, and the rank and file were quick to realise this. Greenfield, Andrews and one or two others soon had X at their mercy and after that only three of the form ever dreamt of preparing a lesson. Those three, Heelas, Davis and I, were in for the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate and had to work. Consequently, the daily routine was for X to turn on one of the rank and file, who floundered smilingly for a minute or so, a second did likewise, and then came furiously "*Oh! go on at the top!*" and we three carried on for the rest of the lesson. The sequel I learnt in my first year at Oxford. During a vacation I was spending a coffee and bridge evening with some of the Masters and X came under discussion. It appeared that he had said exactly what he thought of the form in his reports at the end of term; so exactly, indeed, that he was bidden to rewrite them and substitute the conventional '*Fair*', '*Might do better*', and so forth for his scathing criticisms. Other contemporaries at this time include Walter V Rivers, the Jacksons - R H was a very useful soccer player - Talbot, and many others who have since justified their School by making their marks in Reading.

#### BRILLIANT TWINS

The most brilliant boy of that era was A M Pountney. He gained an open scholarship at University College, Oxford, where he did extremely well in the Schools as well as rowing for his college. He then gained a colonial appointment in the East and has sent another generation of the family to the School to carry on his father's tradition. There were



also the Isemonger twins, Frank and Fred (*F C, pictured at School*), the only twins I have ever met who bore no resemblance to one another. Frank, the elder, was tall with straight, fair hair incidentally a very useful soccer back - Fred was short, with red hair inclined to curl. Years afterwards, January



*School House facing north*

1912, to be exact, when the King was visiting India, I met Fred in the United Services Club, Calcutta, after one of the big functions. After reviving old School memories, I asked for news of his brother. Frank, it appeared, had a job in East Africa and the twins had synchronised their leaves so badly that they had not met for 13 (or was it 17?) years. The nearest was once when they crossed in the Red Sea, one outward, one homeward bound! I was to meet Fred again often in later years up at Simla, where he has brought much honour to himself and his School as

Inspector-General of Police in the Punjab, where his services under most difficult conditions earned for him the double honours of Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE) and then the more coveted Companion of the Star of India (CSI).

And now as we have reached the time when Reading School, in October 1890, handed me over to Alma Mater (St John's College, Oxford, *pictured below*), let me bring these Random Recollections to a close. E and O E! as our bills sometimes say.





# Where are they now?

By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

**So we can inform contemporaries we ask members to send news of themselves to:  
K C Brown, 11 Easington Drive,  
Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3XN,  
Telephone: 0118 966 7013 or  
email: KCBrown11@aol.com.**

## **H S AUST (WEST WING 1957-58)**

Harry, scion of a well known Reading School family, spent one year only at School but it made a deep impression on him. Fellow West Wingers will recall the day Harry fused the lights in the Wing and, perhaps, the rope of towels lowered from an upper window only to be seized by senior wingers below and the tug of war that ensued. He left WW for South Australia where he attended St Peters in Adelaide (not dissimilar to RS, Harry says) and graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Mech Eng degree. A life with automobiles followed, working for Chrysler, designing – and racing – cars, forming his own company (and building a group C sports car to compete in 1986-87) until he settled into forensics as an accident consultant. He is married to Karen, with two children (and has three grown up children by his first marriage).

## **D WISE (COUNTY 1949-52)**

Having matriculated at Tiffins, David joined Reading School in the 5th form - Vs, Room LR, F McL Milbourn - and also took both violin and French horn lessons. Rowing and the Scouts gave way, in 1952, for National Service, but music very much continued as David served, for three years, in the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers Band. During his time in N Ireland he was able to work with the BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra: this led to fourth horn in the Halle on demob and he remained with the orchestra until 1963. Three years freelancing was followed, until retirement in 1992, by work with a wind quintet, based in the West Riding, providing music lessons to schools under the aegis of the prevailing educational programmes. David also taught for 20 years at Bretton Hall Teacher Training College in Wakefield. And in retirement? David no longer plays – not enough time to fit it all in, he says. He is married to Mary and is an enthusiastic photographer.

## **B J MORLEY (COUNTY 1954-60)**

Brian, MA, BA (Hons), C Dip AF is a mechanical engineer who has been in the pump industry all his working life. He started as a student apprentice with Pulsometer (winning the Apprentice of the Year Shield) taught in Nigeria, and for the last 18 years has worked for Ebara Corporation who have their headquarters in Tokyo and are world leaders in the industry. In 1972 he married Tomiko and they have two sons. Now Brian is looking towards retirement which will allow further time for his historical research. His particular enthusiasm lies with the history of the Workers Educational Association and Co-operative Movement. He is an elected regional director of the Co-operative Group.

## **I W O HOUSE (WEST 1954-61)**

After a clutch of prizes at School, Ian went to St John's College, Oxford with the Sir Thomas White Scholarship and graduated in 1964 with a First in PPE. He became a school master on the staff of Abbotsholme School and then in Scarborough, teaching English and History. From 1973-97 he taught at Leighton Park School. There followed a stimulating and adventurous three years teaching in Russia and Eastern Europe before retirement. Literature and drama are Ian's consuming interests and he is a published poet. (*'Cutting the Quick', 2005,....."House illuminates his poems with an enormous visual delicacy...."*)

## **B P RIDSDALE (WEST WING 1954-61)**

After gaining a maths degree at Reading University, Brian worked in computing until he moved into Life Assurance with Scottish Amicable. Finding his seniors were all either Scottish or actuaries he decided the way forward was to become a Scottish actuary! His career eventually took him to the post of General Manager of Zurich Life. He was a Vice President of the Faculty of Actuaries and Chairman of the Continuous Mortality Investigation Bureau (his predecessor was also an OR, Peter Nowell (1961-66)). Nowadays he holds non exec posts and is heavily involved, inter alia, in Christian Aid. In 1965 Brian married Anne; they have five children and *"lots of grandchildren"*. He fulfilled a particular ambition in 2004 by competing in a triathlon with his son, Dan (this will come as no surprise to those who remember a super-fit Captain of School Swimming) and he complemented this by running the London Marathon in 2008.

# Sport

## Rowing: RSBC VIII vs OR VIII 7 July 2009



*The start: School in the foreground*



*The finish at Caversham Bridge*

The OR (Class of '08) vs RSBC race was an idea put forward by A (Alistair) Hodgson OR (2001-08) two or three months ago, presumably influenced by the number of that year taking up rowing seriously in their first university year. With a bit of liaison between A (Ant) Butler OR (2001-08) and the boat house, the motion was seconded and a date set for 7 July.

On the day, there was a large enough turnout to field two full eights (with coxes) though a lack of punctuality in some individuals meant that boats were initially rowing as sixes and the ORs, at one point, with an ex-Kendrick School girl riding cox (*pictured below*).

When the race eventually got underway, there was some confusion as to whether Mr A P Rothbart (rowing coach and former master at School) who was School boat cox for the day - had or hadn't shouted 'No' which threw the OR boat for a minute. They soon picked up the pace however and we had ourselves a race. Over the 1km, the OR boat did manage to catch, overtake and hold off the School boat, though – having never rowed as a crew previously – they admitted that they lacked cohesive performance compared to their opponents.



In place of a forfeit, School boat got busy on the BBQ while the ORs took the opportunity to take some of the Boat House's smaller boats out for a paddle. There is already talk of a repeat next year. T V S

School Boat: **Bow** Anthony Mayne **2** Jonathan Burton **3** Elliot Pallot **4** James Shorland **5** Anthony Butler (OR) **6** Sam Fitchett **7** Mike Spooner **Stroke** Matthew Wagner **Cox** Mr Rothbart

OR Boat: **Bow** Callum Munro **2** Ian Fallon (non OR) **3** Peter Yu **4** Ian Ross **5** Richard Applewhite **6** James Horscroft **7** Alistair Hodgson **Stroke** James Kennedy **Cox** James Barnard



*Phillip Rothbart, James Horscroft, Ant Butler*



*Miss Gemma Fitchett*



*Matthew Wagner*

## OR Cricket Week 4 – 8 July 2009

To try to counter the decrease in the number of School leavers participating, it was decided this year to bring OR Cricket Week into term time to coincide with the OR Summer Festival. This proved successful in that the participation of six players from the School 1st XI, all of whom made substantial contributions, including three centuries (the first time in my recollection that so many have been scored in one week), appeared to justify the move. The negatives were poor wickets and catering difficulties and, once again, a shortage of ORs available to play. These aspects must be addressed if Cricket Week is to remain viable, and the School's commitment to a term time schedule will be vital.

The ORs ended up with two wins, one defeat (by a mere 3 runs) and two draws - in both of which the ORs held the upper hand.

The festival started on the Saturday with a high-scoring School v OR XI game, which the old boys won by the narrow margin of 2 wickets.

Sunday's game against Chelsea Nomads was notable for a century from School opener Marcus Bazley and a quick-fire 65 from Edgar Weekes. In spite of solid starts from several Nomad batsmen, none of them reached 50 and they subsided to a 68 run defeat, with Cricket Week stalwart, Andy Northway, playing his only game of the week, taking four wickets, ably supported by Bazley's off spin.



Bowdon from Cheshire, captained by Sean Walters OR have been visiting for more than a decade and have played us in two-day games in the past. Because the ORs were unable to field the same side on consecutive days, it was agreed to hold two one-day games. Breaking with Cricket Week tradition in the first of these encounters, captain for the day, Sameer Patel, elected to field first on winning the toss. This decision appeared to have been vindicated when Bowdon slumped to 75 for 5, but a rearguard action saw them reach 223 all out. ORs had a similar early collapse to 123 for 7, but a 97 run 9th wicket partnership almost saw us home, until both batsmen were out in the 40s. As OR wicketkeeper, Tim Walder, was unable to bat because of a fractured cheek bone sustained while keeping, ORs lost by just three runs.

The rematch on the Tuesday was notable for a century from School 1st XI opener, Joel Walker. He shared a second wicket stand of 162 with fellow School player, James Moore, which allowed a declaration of 269 for 6. The Bowdon opener Ashling made 147 in reply, but had little support and the match ended in heavy rain and gloomy skies, with both teams chasing victory, and the visitors nine wickets down and 17 short of their target.

Old rivals Kensington, *see image above*, were our Wednesday opponents. Walker matched his previous day's success with another century and shared in substantial first and third wicket stands of 122 and 89. ORs declared on 297 for 6 from 53 overs. A wicket in the second over suggested an easy OR victory, but at 153 for 2 the visitors were well set, until left arm spinner Chip Sainsbury took 4 for 68 in 23 overs. The Kensington last wicket pair hung on for a draw, with their total at 213 for 9 from 55 overs.

One reason for the abundance of younger players this year was that we were able to subsidise their participation through not charging them for their meals and other costs. This was hugely beneficial and is a direct result of the generous grant from the OR Association, which is greatly appreciated by all involved. TLC

## Results of Cricket Week

### ORs beat the School by 2 wickets

School 242 for 6 – J Moore 81, D Bellis 56

ORs 244 for 8 – A Davidson 65, M Carson 49, M Leary 48

### ORs beat Chelsea Nomads by 68 runs

ORs 259 for 4 declared - M Bazley 106, E. Weekes 65

Chelsea Nomads 191 - A. Northway 4 for 60, M. Bazley 3 for 14

### ORs lost to Bowdon by 3 runs

Bowdon 223 all out - M. Pickup 90; H. Town-Jones 3 for 12, T. Drake 3 for 37

ORs 220 all out - H. Town-Jones 47, J. Austin 46

### ORs drew with Bowdon

ORs 269 for 6 declared - J. Walker 110, J. Moore 70

Bowdon 252 for 8 - P. Ashling 147; C. Rooney 3 for 41, M. Bossart 2 for 18, M. Bazley 2 for 36

### ORs drew with Kensington

ORs 297 for 6 declared - J. Walker 129, J. Pryce 60, M. Leary 54

Kensington 213 for 9 - T. Kelleher 89; P. Sainsbury 4 for 68, M. Bazley 2 for 45

## 6th OR Festival of Rugby 12 September 2009

This year the rugby played was, once again, exclusively 7-a-side. The necessity for a late change of date caused the withdrawal of two teams, including Kaysies Crusaders, through prior commitments elsewhere, but the six sides remaining produced some exuberant rugby and the good weather, cheerful atmosphere, and strong touchline support all combined to make another very successful occasion, organised for the ORs by Alistair Wrenn (who also ran the beer tent and kept the score sheets) and controlled, on the field, by R W (Bob) Lewis, Assistant Principal and A (Alex) Beckey, Master I/C Rugby.

The final was a replay of last year's with Team 6 (Year Group 2000-2007). 'The Zebras' this time triumphing (27-5) over Team 3 (Year Group 1996-2003) 'The Morgan Road All-Stars'. Jelf Group, via Michael King OR, again provided generous sponsorship.

**Goss Shield** (For the Tournament Champions) – presented by Alistair Wrenn:  
**'The Zebras'** (Captained by Will Clarke) *pictured below*

**Vaughan Tankard** (For Player of the Tournament) – presented by John Vaughan:  
**Sean Conroy** *pictured below, centre back row*

**Clacy Cup** (School Player of last season) – presented by Alex Beckey  
**Charlie O'Halloran**

In making the presentation of the Clacy Cup, Mr Beckey stated his objectives for those playing School Rugby were that they should enjoy the game and wish to continue playing after they had left School.

Mr Lewis thanked the sponsors, the ORs, the Team Captains and all present for contributing to such an enjoyable afternoon and, in his capacity as House Master, issued an invitation to the South House garden for a gathering after the tournament.

KCB



## The OR Barbarians

Barbarians were unable to send a side for the OR Festival of Rugby (see above) following the change of date of that competition, but Simon Bowcock, their membership coordinator did turn out for Team 4 (1997-2004)

## OR Golfing Society Autumn Meeting 1 October 2009

The Golfing Society's Autumn meeting was held at the Henley Golf Club and the weather was perfect for golf on this very undulating and testing course! There were eleven players taking part and they were joined for dinner by past President Cedric Scroggs, who gave away the trophies and prizes.

The winner of the Bucknell Cup and medal was Paul Falinski with a very good round of 39 points. The runner up was Neil Hunt with 34 points. He also won the silver tankard for the longest drive and the Lunn Trophy for the best stroke score! Rudolph Bissolotti won the nearest the pin competition, with a fine shot to the centre of the green.

We look forward to the next meeting of the society, in the Spring, at another local course.

WEL



### Left to right:

G W O Price	(1948-56)
R A Bissolotti	(1944-50)
P E Falinski	(1960-67)
A Wrenn	(1978-85)
C F Quartly	(1970-75)
W E Lunn	(1951-58)
N C Burrows	(1969-76)
C A Scroggs	(1952-59)
S J Johnston	(1979-86)
N A Hunt	(1977-84)
M J Childs	(1946-53)
R P Huggins	(1944-52)

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

## Caversham and Redingensians CC

The 1st XI, captained by A J (Andy) Northway OR (1977-82) finished the season in the penultimate place of the Thames Valley League's Division 4b having achieved a dramatic 1-run win over Barnes Wild Geese in their final fixture. The 2nd XI, captained by W J E (John) Camidge (1977-82) finished bottom of Division 6a, not helped by constant problems of player availability. Both sides were relegated but the Thames Valley League has been very supportive and will permit the Club to field one side only, in the League, next season. There is optimism that this streamlining will help the Club out of difficulty.

KCB

## Redingensians RFC Ltd

A new head coach and new player signings were indicative of the Club's optimism for the 1st XV in National 3 South West (the renamed League South West 1). Whilst losing their opener against Cleve, as we go to press some big wins have been recorded and the side are lying fourth in the table. Tigers, the 2nd XV, opened their season with two good wins. The Club is again fielding 5 senior sides, and a junior section providing rugby for players 7 to 17 plus Colts. Sevens and touch rugby flourish (the Colts are national champions in the latter).

KCB

# Cricketing Old Redingensians

The above title embraces thousands who learned their cricket at Reading School and played it for many years after. Some were exceptional club cricketers, certainly the contribution to the Berkshire County side has been considerable (see the table overleaf) and there were a number who appeared in Minor County cricket elsewhere – **S C B Lee (1899-03)**, of Oxfordshire, being one outstanding example.

Blues were won by **J V Wild (1924-27)**, Cambridge 1938 and **A N S Hampton (1978-85)** Oxford 1989. In the latter year **N Heppel (1979-86)** played some first class cricket for Oxford also – and the career of the man who many consider could have won Blues in four different sports and was invited to tour with the England Cricket Team, **S H Stevens (1899-06)** mentor of Duleep and many fine cricketers from Cheltenham College deserves (and will have) an article to himself in this magazine in the future.

**P A Merrett (1949-57)** became a USA International; **H B Corry (1893-99)** of Middlesex, **D W Stokes (1919-21)** of Hampshire and **J A Scholfield (1961-66)** also of Hampshire all appeared for their County's 2nd XI, but did not make the next step; indeed there were relatively few who did, but **A T Cliff (1891-95)** Worcestershire, **N W Harding (1927-34)** Kent and **G N G Kirby (1933-40)** Surrey, all made their County 1st XIs and their careers will be given pen portraits in future issues. **T G (Tom) Burrows (1998-03)** is the current Hampshire reserve wicket keeper – his 1st team appearances are increasing (he is unlucky to be understudy to Nic Pothas) and his career will be watched with interest. The School's favourite cricketer must remain, of course, **H E (Tom) Dollery (1925-32)** of Warwickshire and England., *pictured right.*



At School Tom Dollery excelled in all sports but, above all, at cricket being five seasons in the 1st XI (1928-32) and an outstanding Captain in the final two years. (For good measure he was also on Reading FC's books – appropriately he was born in Kensington Road, adjacent to Elm Park, as well as to one of the best cricket grounds in the country).

At School amongst many towering scores he hit two notable successive centuries against MCC. In his last years at School there were four centuries for the full Berkshire side and he nearly made one playing for the Minor Counties against Oxford University, his initial first class appearance.

He became a very distinguished County cricketer with Warwickshire, scoring nearly 25,000 runs for them, including 50 centuries, and each season he achieved his 1000 runs. His career lost six years to the War and he did not make his England debut until the late 1940s – well after his prime.

He became the first professional cricketer to be an established County Captain and took Warwickshire to the County Championship in 1951 and was one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year in 1952. After retirement he was briefly a test selector.

KCB

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY PLAYERS

1896	H V Plum	(Master at School)
1898 - 1905	S V Shea Simonds	
1899	H B Corry	
1899 - 1905	W M Greenfield	
1900	J C McCarthy	
1900	J A Yates	
1900	A S Todd	
1909 - 1923	S H Stevens	
1910 - 1913	G Belcher	(Master at School)
1928 - 1966	D W Stokes	(Captain 1937 – 1953)
1930 - 1933	H E Dollery	
1934 - 1936	N W Harding	
1934 - 1935	E H Maule	
1935	B L R Dowse	(Master at School)
1937 - 1938	A G Salmon	
1938 - 1939	J Caudle	
1939	W J Streater	(Master at School)
1946 - 1953	T J Easby	
1946 - 1953	R D Morbey	
1946 - 1962	M A Salmon	
1946 - 1951	L A Sears	
1949 - 1952	P Lincoln-Gordon	
1950 - 1974	A T Davis	(Headmaster at School)
1950 - 1958	A W Flatman	
1950 - 1956	J W H May	
1950 - 1952	F S Price	
1951 - 1968	J C Rudd	
1952 - 1958	C M S Crombie	
1953	J R Digby	
1954	G N G Kirby	
1961	W A Goodworth	
1961	P A Merrett	
1963 - 1967	F C Baines	
1966 - 1973	J A Scholfield	
1967 - 1974	H J Townson	
1973 - 1976	R F B Orton	
1982	R G Owen	(Master at School)
1984	A D Walder	(Master at School)
1996 - 2004	S S Patel	
2001 - 2003	T G Burrows	

(Note: H V Whichelow (who played from 1908 – 1912) K J Sayles (1958) D Gibson (1977 – 1978) and A Dindar (1981 – 1984) were all at one time or another on the School coaching/ground staff.)



# Commentary

## The Old Redingensian Spring 2009

Rev D J (David) Weekes (1947-53) writes, in regard to the Valpy portrait (*Return of the Doctor!*), that before it passed to Edward Valpy it was owned by the unmarried Canon Arthur Sutton Valpy who died in 1909. His father, Richard (who married the heiress of the Suttons of Kensington and Champneys) was the son of another Richard, Dr Valpy's eldest son, in whose Kensington home the Doctor died in 1836.

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G M (Gordon) Wyard (1955-62) was reminded by the piece on John Ogden (*Where Are They Now?*) that they attended the same Methodist church in West Reading and played together in a skiffle group called *The Diddycoys* – John on guitar and Gordon as “a none too shabby washboard exponent”. John often played the organ in the church and one evening, when the offertory was being collected, Gordon and other youngsters had to stifle their amusement when they realised that John, such was his talent, had played a Lonnie Donnegan number in hymnal manner (*Times are getting hard boys and money's getting scarce*). The adult audience seemed blissfully unaware of this but John was pleased that his little musical joke had been picked up on by the teenagers in the back pew!

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Writing in response to the *Royal Berkshire Regiment*, Colonel J W (John) Chown (1941-48) recalls National Service with the Royal Berkshires during training at Bulford, WOSB at Westbury and OCTU at Eaton Hall. When, via a wintry spell in Cornwall, he was commissioned into the RAEC, he shed his Royal Berkshire cap badge with reluctance.

---

David Downs (1952-59), a Lance Sergeant in the CCF at School, decided to join the TA when he left and fifty years ago, in July 1959, he enlisted in Headquarters Company of 4/6 Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment at Brock Barracks. (See page 9 in this issue). The Battalion football team regularly won the National TA Cup and also played in the Reading and District Sunday League when it was formed in 1964. David scored after 10 minutes on the first day of that league – perhaps the first goal in Sunday football in the town.....

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In 1971, after he had left the TA, David Downs was appointed Deputy Headmaster at Ranikhet Primary School in Tilehurst, the badge of which is the China Dragon of the Royal Berkshire Regiment! The school was built on the site of Ranikhet Camp, once used for training new recruits to the Regiment, and named after a hill station near the India/Tibet border to which the Regiment had deployed in the 1920s.

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Brawn GP (*see Notes & News last time*) won the Formula One Constructors Championship, in its first year, with a race to spare. This is a towering achievement by Ross Brawn OR (1966-71) who now adds an eighth championship – this time for a car bearing his own name, to the six he won at Ferrari as technical director and the one before that at Benetton. Not only that, but the Brawn driver, Jenson Button, won the World Drivers Championship and the other driver in the Brawn team, Rubens Barrichello, finished third in the final table.

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D E H (Denis) Moriarty PP (1943-54) has pointed to the omission of J M H (John) Lee (1935-45) from the gallery of parliamentary representatives shown in *Notes & News*. Thirty years have passed since John sat as an MP and we were not seeking to include **all** previous OR MPs (or indeed OR parliamentary candidates which, had we done so, would have included Denis himself....). John Lee is still very much with us, nonetheless, and there will be a piece solely about him in a forthcoming issue.

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The verdict on the '*Damian Green Affair*' (*Notes and News* again) is that the Government exaggerated the threat to national security following the leaking of documents by a 'whistle blower' and the arrest of Green – Shadow Immigration Minister and Conservative MP for Ashford, OR (1967-74) - was disproportionate and ill-advised. Damian Green spent eleven hours in the custody of anti-terrorist officers, and the public outrage at his treatment led to a national debate on the role of the Police and the sovereignty of Parliament, and has highlighted the threats to individual liberty posed by the surveillance state.

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E S (Ted) Webber (1942-49) felt that the Van Wart piece (*Some Random Recollections Part 1*) read as though it were written yesterday and enquired where it had come from. The answer is that it was amongst the items passed to the Archive by the estate of Col Wally Pryke (see Spring and Autumn 2008 issues). Wally had cut out copies of Van Wart's original articles from the *Reading Standard* in the early 1930s and preserved them.

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This page last time.....of course, Bader crashed at Woodley Aerodrome in 1931, not 1941.

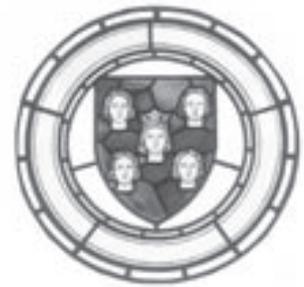
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# The Archive

## Lieutenant William Gray Haynes 8th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment



Billy Haynes was at School from 1899 to 1908 where he was an outstanding sportsman. He was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. The Archive has obtained (with the help of Michael Naxton OR) the Great War memorial plaque issued to his next of kin. These bronze plaques were given in memory of all British and Empire service personnel. They were often referred to as *'the Dead Man's Penny'*. For more information on Billy see pp 209-211 *Old School Ties* by John Oakes and Martin Parsons, published in 2001.



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

Personnel identified in Peter Coombs platoon on Churn Ranges (see page 39 Spring 2009 issue) so far are, ' Savoury, Greenwood, Alford or Bryant, Giles, Halliday, Hardcastle, Smallbone, Tomkins, Neill, Tarry, Ward, Edgar, Rhodes, Rees, Harris. This leaves a few gaps which readers may be able to help with before the next issue

Looking at Ken Mills' School Calendar for the Lent Term 1947 (when he was in M.vi.B) brings home how little that publication changed for so long. One or two entries stood out: a scheduled visit by Cdr H T Harrell RN (did he visit? why? who was he?): the Hockey XI fixtures – which included Miles Aircraft – which were devastated by the severe winter that year, as indeed nearly all sporting activity was (including the Triangular Athletics Match against Leighton Park and St Pauls, which had a page of its own in the Calendar waiting for the results to be filled in, and Sports Day itself): *Master of the Week* for Feb 16-22 (Miss Morgan!). There was also a useful blank page for 'personal engagements'.



Here is a final image of Upper IIIB 1943-44 (see last 3 issues) as the jigsaw is now complete and all the names confirmed. They are:

**Back Row:** Freer, Mackie, Baggaley, Saul, Hawthorne, Neill, Manning (A R), Harvey, Holland.

**Centre Row:** Manning (M), Johnson, Jones, Stafford, Halliday, Groombridge, Crowder, Hardcastle, Cohen, Hall

**Front Row:** Sanders, Smallbone, Rutherford, Taylor, Matthews, Langford, Davies, Wells

John Cawston Sanders (1939-45) – see front row of the image – has written to say that John Taylor is incorrect to connect him with Maynard's Launches (see last issue) – wrong firm, as John is perhaps the sole remaining blood survivor of that branch of the Cawston family who ran the boat businesses at Caversham. The firm was founded around 1875 by John's great grandfather Edward Joseph Cawston, a boatbuilder from Bermondsey, who died in 1912. Upon his wife's death in 1920 the steam launch side of the business went to two of the children, John's grandfather and great uncle, (who were twins) and the small boat letting business went to another of the children, John's great uncle, Arthur Reuben Cawston. ORs will remember, also, the rival boat business, at Caversham, Freebody's. Upon the death of John's grandfather the steam launches, house and boatyard on the Reading bank were sold to Salter Bros of Oxford in 1945; the small boat business went a few years later, when John's great uncle, Arthur, passed away.

Maynard's operated *The Queen of the Thames* and *The Britannic* and there was friendly rivalry with *Majestic* and *River Queen* operated by Cawstons. (Incidentally, John says that Bill Maynard was also the licensee of *The Moderation* in Caversham Road.)

## We thank the following for additions to the Archive:

**Miss Evelyn Aust** for a framed memorial portrait, with mounted cap badge of her uncle, H E (Henry) Aust (1908-14) who was killed in action with the Yorkshire Regiment in 1918.

**Barbara Bass (Staff 1988-99)** for a large amount of material from her time teaching at the School, including the archives of the School Newspaper which was successfully produced under her aegis.

**Harriet and Sarah Gash** for the generous gift of 14 books about Reading and Berkshire from the library of their father, the late Professor Norman Gash CBE, OR (1923-30).

**The family of the late J A Goodworth (1937-45)** for a collection of material including his colours blazer, letters, publications and photographs.

**I R Judd (OR 1962-69 and current Master at School)** for School lists.

**Professor A A Johnson (1940-49)** for photographs of The Tuck Shop and 1947 School Play

**G Malkin (1938-39 and 1943-47)** for an image of the Long Run in 1946.

**K S Mills (1942-47)** for images of the cast of Iolanthe 1944 and his platoon at Churn Ranges in 1946 (on his first Field Day).

**J V Oakes PP (Master at School 1971-97)** for five images of architectural plans and representations of the original Erleigh Road School Buildings held at the British Architectural Library.

**Margaret Lambson** for 20 School magazines from her late father's time at School - G A J (Gordon) Orchard (1937-44).

**F H Terry (Master at School 1946-1982)** Once again. This time for more programmes and photographs.

**M J Van Brugen (1942-53)** for a package of material including an issue of the South House magazine Southern Cross (a full set of which it is hoped will be compiled).

**Sqn Ldr J A Wheeler (1944-50)** for programmes, and CCF material.

**Maj Gen M L Wildman (1958-65)** for a cabinet photograph of himself in schooldays.

We are grateful for all the above and hope it inspires others to make contact if they have material for the archive, either to gift or to have scanned and returned. **Items should be sent to K C Brown, Honorary Archivist, 11 Easington Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3XN who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 966 7013 or by email at KCBrown11@aol.com.**



*Churn Ranges on 28 February 1946, the image sent in by Ken Mills (see above).  
Is this the Cert A/Recruit Platoon? Help with identifying the personnel will be welcome.*

# Overseas Branches

## USA

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

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

**Tel:** +1 908 238 1020  
**Email:** yors862@cs.com



## France

### French Organiser – Graham Fenner (1963-70)

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

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



## Australia

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

M M Jones  
PO Box 607  
West Mead  
NSW 2145  
Australia

**Tel:** +61 (0)2 9687 8884  
**Mobile:** +61 (0)428 440 029  
**Email:** specialty@bigpond.com



There is no specific news from the USA or France to put in this issue but Australasian news is as follows and includes an updating, below, of the contacts grid that appeared in the last issue:

Capital City	Name		At School	Tel No	Email
Adelaide	Laurie	Housden	1958-64	(61 8) 8294 1634	ljhousden@primus.com
Auckland	Roger	Quartly	1972-75	(64 9) 835 3331	rogerQ@pumpsolutions.co.nz
Brisbane	Paul	Judge	1966-70	(61 7) 3300 4501	paul@lyonsjudge.com.au
Melbourne	Joe	Radcliffe	1962-69	(61 3) 9787 5039	drjradcliffe@yahoo.com.au
Perth	Garth	Scotford	1953-59	(61 8)9296 1497	cazgar40@hotmail.com
Sydney	Nick	Fried	1966-74	(61 2) 9686 6430	nsfried@bigpond.com
Tasmania	Nick	Rawlinson	1970-77	(61 3) 6330 1077	nickrawlinson@aapt.net.au
Christchurch	Michael	Clark	1956-63	(64 3) 344 5573	michael@alaltd.co.nz
Wellington	David	Haynes	1962-69	(64 4) 939 1444	david.haynes@smartlinux3.co.nz
Noosa Re-Union Secretary	Ted	Webber	1942-49	(61 7) 5445 1891	pawebber@netspace.net.au
ORA Convenor	Mike	Jones	1957-64	(61 2) 9687 8884	specialty@bigpond.com

The ORA Noosa reunion took place on 13 June 2009 at a restaurant chosen by Ron Peddley (who received the 2009 Ted Robson Pewter) and was attended by; Ron Peddley (1944-51) and Wendy; Joe Radcliffe (1962-69) and Sheila; Ted Webber (1942-49) and Marguerite; Mike Jones (1957-64) and Alison; Eric Burrows (1942-47) and Jill. Apologies were received from the Frieds, Maskells, Pykes, Selingers, Shepherds and Webbs (the last because they were visiting Reading!) and two others.

Mike Jones, and others, would be pleased to hear from anyone who has news of R G R (Bob) Albon (South House 1958-65)

Twenty-one years ago Ted Robson organized the first of these regular reunions and, whilst there will be another Noosa reunion next June (contact Ted Webber, 14 Elizamay Close, BUDERIM, QLD 4556. Email: [pawebber@netspace.net.au](mailto:pawebber@netspace.net.au) Tel: +61 7 5445 1891 for details) there will also be a formal lunch in Sydney to mark the coming of age:

**Saturday, 27 March 2010  
Old Government House  
Parramatta Park  
Sydney**

**11 am coffee followed by a tour of Government House  
1 pm lunch  
(dress: OR ties – jackets optional)**

There are already one or two UK domiciled ORs planning to attend – anybody else who is interested should contact Mike Jones (details above). Will the School song be sung at the Sydney Reunion? To that Australian third verse on the menu card of the 1990 Sydney Dinner (see the Autumn 2008 issue of this journal) we discover another verse, again by Charles Tice (1931-38), was also sung for the first time during the 1990s:

*As Reading's sons spread far and wide,  
We gather in Australia  
To celebrate our heritage,  
In OR tie regalia.  
Our memories remain steadfast  
Despite time's due attrition,  
And so we sing our old School song,  
Maintaining the tradition.  
So let our song, etc.....etc....*

A report of the lunch will appear in the Spring 2010 issue and the Association in the UK send best wishes for a successful event.

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**From Membership  
Secretary:**

C. J. Widdows  
21 Bulmershe Road  
Reading RG1 5RH

**Cheques payable to:  
Old Redingensians  
Association**

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

# Obituaries

## PROFESSOR NORMAN GASH CBE FBA FRSL FRSE FRHistS (1923-30)



By common consent, Norman Gash, was one of the foremost scholars of 19th century Britain.

He was born the son of a professional soldier with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Meerut, India on 16 January 1912. In 1923 he won a scholarship to Reading School. By the 1926-27 School year he was in V Classical but J W (Sugar) Saunders, persuaded him to concentrate on history and from 6th Modern he won, in 1929, a Sir Thomas White Scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. He rowed in the winning West House IV of 1929, gained School running colours in 1930 and Deb Soc characters in both years.

In 1930 he attended a course in German language and literature at Berlin University. He was a scholar at St John's from 1930-34, Kitchener Scholar 1930-33 and a College prizeman in 1932. His tutor was W C Costin OR (1906-1912) and Norman graduated with First Class Honours, staying on to do a BLitt on the Agricultural Riots of 1830.

After coming down he became a prep school history master and then obtained a one year temporary post at Edinburgh University which enabled him to marry in 1935. His wife was Ivy Dorothy Whitehorn, from Reading, and their married life was to last for over sixty years and produce two daughters.

From 1936-40 he was at University College London and there he began the research into the landed gentry, which stimulated his interest in the political history of Britain from 1815-1865. In 1940 he enlisted and was assigned to the Intelligence Corps, served as a Staff Officer, Southern Command, 1941-43 and then in MI14 until 1946 specialising in the activities of the SS. He was one of the team that compiled the report into Hitler's suicide which formed the basis of Hugh Trevor-Roper's *'The Last Days of Hitler'*. After demobilization in the rank of Major, MI14 continued to call on him to make trips to Occupied Europe in connection with the Nuremberg Trials.

In 1946 Norman became a lecturer at St Andrew's University. His first book, *'Politics in the Age of Peel'*, was published in 1953. In that year he was elected a Fellow of The Royal Historical Society and was appointed to the Chair of Modern History at the University of Leeds. In 1955 he became Professor of History and Head of Department at St Andrew's and from 1967 to 71 was Vice Principal of the University (and, later, Dean of the Faculty of Arts). His magisterial biography *'Mr Secretary Peel'* appeared in 1961; there were many publications in the next two decades, and further appointments included Hinckley Visiting Professor at John Hopkins University; Fellow of the British Academy; Ford's Lecturer at Oxford University; Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature; Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

He taught himself to sail and would take his Honours students out in his Dysart Yawl. As Honorary President of the Student Conservative Society he encouraged many young politicians who later served under Mrs Thatcher. In retirement at Langport, Somerset, books continued to appear as did contributions to the *New DNB* and *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He was made an Honorary Fellow of his old college, St John's; and in 1989 he was awarded the CBE for services to education. He was a patron of the Peel Society from its formation and a member of the Surtees Society (also from formation).

He was active in Langport affairs, serving on the Parish Council (and took a keen interest when, in 1995, there was a re-enactment of the Battle of Langport to mark its 350th anniversary). The death of his wife in 1995 left him very much alone and a second marriage in 1997 lasted only a few months. Macular degeneration brought obvious difficulties but he continued to collect old roses and to swim, both in the River Parrett and off the Dorset coast, until 2006. Carers and a gardener enabled him to remain independent and in his own home, where he was to die peacefully sitting in his favourite chair. To the end, callers were always sure of a welcome and the prospect of trenchant discussion.

Norman Gash died on 1 May 2009 aged 97 leaving his daughters, Harriet and Sarah.

KCB

*(We are grateful to Harriet Gash for a wealth of information on her father, a great deal of which has been used in the notice above and will form the basis for an article on Professor Gash in a future issue.)*

## RODNEY WILLIAM CALVERT (1959-63)



Rodney Calvert was an outstanding geophysicist, and internationally recognised for his pioneering work in oil and gas exploration. Though his entire career was spent with Shell, where he rose to become Chief Scientist for Geophysics, his brilliant command of the subject was known and respected widely across the broader scientific community and beyond. He was a skilful communicator and an intrepid sportsman, with a zest for physical challenge and a deep love of the natural world, shared with his first wife Rosemary (née Phillips).

Rodney was born at Rugby on 7 September 1944, entering Reading School in 1959 when his parents moved to the area. His popularity was soon established through his mischievous sense of humour and his unorthodox response to the accepted way of doing things, which lay at the heart of his creative ability.

He became Captain of West House and Vice Captain of School. On the sports field he excelled, captaining the 1st XV and gaining Representative Colours for Cricket and Hockey. At one point his rugby career was interrupted by a serious injury in which a stray boot, flailing in the loose scrum, tore off the fingernails of one hand. Septicaemia set in, and to counter the spread of infection he was in plaster up to the shoulder for many weeks. Typically, he displayed no self pity, merely his familiar sheepish grin - and was soon back on the pitch.

He read physics at Wadham College, Oxford, and then moved to Imperial College, London to undertake a PhD. At Royal Dutch Shell in The Hague in 1969 he explored techniques for making band-limited seismic impedance sections; these were the foundations of the new branch of geophysics known as seismic inversion, in which he became a leading expert. In 1971, he worked with Texas Instruments, developing software for the first seismic supercomputer.

Returning to London after four years in Sarawak, he played a key role in North Sea oil developments, becoming Head of Geophysics at Shell Expro. About this time, his remarkable ability to explain complex topics in simple terms came to the fore, making him the perfect intermediary between research and operations, and so smoothing the advance of projects which were ultimately of crucial importance to the UK's future energy supply.

By the mid-1980s Rodney was head of the geophysical research department at Rijswijk in The Netherlands, while spending much time also at the company's North American headquarters in Houston, Texas. He brought the first 3-dimensional workstation for the interpretation of geophysical data to Shell. He encouraged and supported staff who integrated geophysics with other disciplines, and contributed an educational, tongue-in-cheek column to a Shell house magazine.

His next assignment was Chief Geophysicist at Shell Canada. He added skiing to his repertoire of challenging sports, which already included wind-surfing, sailing, and scuba-diving, before moving back to R & D at Houston and Rijswijk in 1993. Adapting to the climatic change, rollerblading now replaced skiing, with frightening results (it was said) to himself and passers-by. He began his final and most challenging project to incorporate a fourth dimension, production time, into the study of how natural underground reservoirs change as they produce oil and gas. His book *Insights and Methods for 4D Reservoir Monitoring and Characterization* became a standard work.

With Andrey Bakulin, Rodney Calvert was also a pioneer of the Virtual Source Method, a technique for sensitive imaging and hydrocarbon reservoir monitoring on which Shell obtained an early patent. He was a popular speaker at international scientific conferences over many years. His course on 4-D techniques was presented worldwide, drawing excellent reviews and helping to strengthen ties between scholars, governments and energy companies.

*A colleague wrote 'He never stopped learning, always sharing what he knew or discovered with his colleagues and friends... A truly caring and unselfish teacher throughout his life, he educated a generation of scientists who will never forget his creativity, intuition, unorthodox approaches and solutions to any problem at hand, including attempts to improve cancer diagnostics in what would be his final battle'.*

He leaves a widow, Kaaren, and his sons Alexander and Andrew by his first wife, Rosemary.

Rodney Calvert died on 22 November 2007 aged 63.

F R Terry

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL HENRY KEMP (1929-34)



Born in Boveney near Windsor, from 1925 - 1929 Michael Kemp attended Kimbolton School in Huntingdon, before entering East Wing in September 1929 from where he left six years later as Captain of School, of Boarders and of Swimming, with School Colours for Athletics and Rugby and as a Sergeant in the OTC. He also won the Kicking Cup in 1934 and gave a well received performance the same year as La Hire in the School play 'St Joan', amongst many other involvements in School life.

After working briefly for the GWR in Paddington he took an opportunity, at the age of 20, to join the British South Africa Police and sailed for Rhodesia in 1937. After transferring to PS Corps steady promotion followed: by the end of the Second World War he had been transferred to the Rhodesian African Rifles and seen service with South East Asia Command and, at war's end, he resigned his commission and reverted to Corps duty in Southern Rhodesia. He rose to Lt Col three years before leaving service in 1957. As a Major he

had been part of the contingent sent to the UK in 1953 and was awarded the Coronation Medal. His second career was as a Water Bailiff on Lake Mcllwaine, near the Rhodesian capital, until retirement and a return to England, in 1977, where he and his second wife, Jean, lived happily near Axminster until his death.

Michael's first marriage to Valeska von Memerty, in 1942, produced their son Allan. Valeska died in 1953 and with Jean he had Timothy and Jane.

Michael was at his happiest near to nature and to animals and loved, particularly, the sea and fishing. He was a passionate supporter of the RNLI. He held the beliefs and possessed the quintessential qualities of the true English gentleman. Gwyn Francis, his House Master in East Wing, which he Captained for four terms, considered he had "...strength of character and personality, talent for organisation, quickness of thought and grit".

He is survived by Jean, by Allan and Timothy and his daughter, Mrs Jane Gerard-Pearce, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Michael Kemp died on 8 February 2009 aged 92.

KCB

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## DENIS BARNES MBE (1928 - 34)

When he left School at the age of 17, Denis Barnes was an established 2nd XV and 2nd XI player, had gained School Running Colours (and finished 2nd in the 1934 Senior Long Run) was a stalwart of County House, and had also made an all round contribution to the cultural life of the School. His sporting activities continued for some years with the Old Redingensians Club.

He spent his professional life with Barclays Bank in Crowthorne, Andover and Reading, retiring, a well known and respected local businessman, at the age of 60.

During seven years of military service Denis Barnes had a very distinguished record in the Second World War. As Lt Col D Barnes RA, he was awarded the American Bronze Star, and, a few days later, the MBE, both for his services in Italy connected with the establishment of a new Italian Army in support of the Allied cause.



In 1941 Denis married Kathleen Appleby, at St Peter's Church, Caversham. They had three children between 1949 and 1954 and became settled in Caversham where their large garden in Conisboro Avenue, was a great interest, as was the outdoor life in general. Many local organisations benefited from Denis's help, a Boys Club, the British Legion, the Samaritans, Rotary, Round Table, Forty-One Club amongst them.

Life became fraught with difficulty in Kathleen's last five years of life during which Denis cared for her devotedly as her final distressing illness took hold.

He is survived by and remembered with deep affection by his daughter Susan, and sons Roger and Nigel. We thank Roger, OR (1960 - 62) for supplying the material for this notice.

Denis Barnes died on 22 April 2008 aged 91.

KCB

## RODNEY PETER LUNN (1954-60)



Rodney Lunn's funeral service at All Saints Church, Rotherfield Peppard, was full to overflowing with friends, relatives, colleagues and very many ORs; tribute to a popular and well loved personality.

Rodney was born on 15 November 1941, named after Admiral Rodney, and spent a happy childhood in Earley and, later, at Satis House on Peppard Common. After the Abbey Junior School and St Edward's he joined his brother, Will (W E Lunn 1951-58), in South House. (We are indebted to Will for much material in this notice).

He was the complete all rounder for his House and also became Captain of School Shooting, and of the Boat Club in their first season at the new boat house at Caversham. Additionally, he was an Athletics colour; a sprinter who twice competed in the Berks AAA Championships at junior level. He played his part also in music and drama, the Debating Society and Seekers. In 1960 he went on the BSES Expedition to central Iceland and retained a lifelong interest in Geology. After training as an accountant with Cook Sutton and Co, and a period at Great Western Motors, he joined the family removals firm of C & G Ayres and E W Reeves Limited, where he spent the remainder of his working life and became a Director.

In 1971 Rodney married Valerie Powell (cf Bryan Powell's obituary on page 49) and they had two children, Olivia and Marcus. He was introduced to Henley Golf Club by his Uncle, Ronnie Twort, and golf became a passion for the rest of his life. He played far and wide – and with success – and was secretary, also, of the OR Golfing Society.

During the 1990s he and Valerie divorced and last year, in All Saints, he married Paddy (sister of Will's wife, Sue) after a number of years together. It was through Paddy, during a holiday in Venice, that Rod's natural talent as an artist had emerged and the family have the wonderful legacy of his vibrant work (see also *Notes and News* on page 4). An aggressive attack of Motor Neurone Disease brought rapid physical decline and Rodney entered the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in March. He leaves Paddy, children Olivia and Marcus and extended family.

Rodney was a natural raconteur whose tales only improved in the retelling. He was a staunch friend with a quietly humorous philosophy that brought joy to many. His happy optimistic nature and positive attitude prevailed even during his recent illness; the tribute paid to him at All Saints by his friend, John Boucher, summed up his approach in the words of Adam Lindsay Gordon:

*"Life is mostly froth and bubble  
Two things stand like stone –  
Kindness in another's trouble  
Courage in your own."*

Rodney Lunn died on 31 March, 2009, aged 67.

KCB

## JOHN MORGAN (1929-34)

Jack left School (County House) in 1934 having gained his Lower Certificate and a fund of memories of which he often spoke. He had been born in Cardiff and after the family had moved to Reading he won a Scholarship to the School.

He entered the insurance industry but in 1939 he was called up and served throughout the Second World War in the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Sixth Battalion) where he was known to his comrades as "Tommy".

After demobilization, in 1946, Jack returned to the insurance industry and by 1972 had become Assistant General Manager of the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Society in Stratford upon Avon. (NFU celebrates its centenary next year).

After retiring in 1981, he visited Australia and, having returned from a semi-tropical summer to a typical British winter, he decided to migrate. The family settled in Perth and it was in that city, at Tangdara Nursing Home that he passed away, leaving Eva, his wife of 62 years, their two children Frances and Rees and two grandchildren. We are grateful to Rees for information used in this notice.



John Morgan died on 23 January 2009 aged 89.

KCB

## JOHN GEORGE DOWSE (1939-48)



John – or, occasionally, Jack (and inevitably Benny at School) – was one of Life's pleasing, gentle, kindly eccentrics. His parents ran The Rising Sun at Burghfield and in his bachelor life the pleasure of the pub lunch became a set routine with a favourite seat and parking place – and preferably curry followed by vanilla ice cream.

Though in County House until 1943, he is best remembered as a West Winger in love with mathematics and unable to understand why all did not share his obsession. For this he was affectionately ragged sometimes, by his fellows, who discovered that if they grasped the finger that John automatically wagged in accompaniment to his somewhat didactic explanations he was totally unable to carry on speaking! He had a go at most things at School, 3rd XV, 3rd XI, Sergeant in the JTC, a good House member. Later he was on the Committee of the OR Tennis Section when it started in 1950 and was a sometime OR Councillor.

His mathematical ability was considerable. After National Service, in the Royal Navy, he obtained a 1st Class Honours Degree in Maths at Reading University (having won a Berkshire County Major Scholarship in 1947) and was then awarded a Research Scholarship. His career took him from de Havilland at Hatfield, to Scicon, and finally to the DHSS in London as a statistician.

His natural talent was not accompanied by any great ambition, but his interests were many; racing (quite logically), CAMRA, the cinema, theatre, jazz, cycling, museums and travel amongst them. When, in his seventies, his health deteriorated, the affection in which he was held brought much help from his near neighbours, David and Janice Wootton, and other friends; finally, in Tower House Care Home at Shiplake he was looked after with both skill and affection by Bridget and Sinead Kidd and their team.

Amongst ORs at John's funeral, was RK (Robin) Edgar (1940-49) whose input to this notice is much appreciated.

John Dowse died on 17 December 2008, aged 79.

KCB

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## JOHN ALLAN GOODWORTH (1937-45)

John was born in Liverpool but his father's work brought the family to Reading where they lived first in Surley Row and then Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green. The three sons all attended Reading School, as members of County House; W A (Bill) (1933-39) and G A (Geoff) (1935-42) both predeceased John.

John left from UvA, with 2nd XI and 2nd XV Colours, House Colours for Boxing, House Initials for Chess and Music and as a member of the Dramatic and Operatic Societies. After School he was in the Sainsbury Singers and involved with local rugby. Like his brothers he was a very keen golfer.

Following National Service with the Royal Army Education Corps in Germany, John trained as a teacher at Culham College (he had an aptitude for languages and a passion for grammar). He taught for a few years but health problems set in, which limited his capabilities in life. He did eventually recover sufficiently to become a clerk with the Southern Electricity Board.



John Goodworth became an introvert with a strong spirituality; he was knowledgeable about the scriptures; and poetry, hymns, and prayer were of great importance to him; the scope and insightfulness of his musings recorded in the journal found after his death surprised even his family, two of whom, his nephew David and niece Sally (John was unmarried) were at his bedside when he peacefully departed this life.

The funeral took place on a snowbound and biting cold winter's day; the congregation was led by Mrs W A Goodworth and other members of the family. The dignified service included fine singing from Carol Bentley-York.

John Goodworth died on 18 January 2009, aged 80.

KCB

## GORDON ARTHUR JOHN ORCHARD (1937-44)



Gordon Orchard was born in Reading, the son of a cabinet maker - perhaps the root of his many practical skills. A scholarship took him to Reading School and he had a State Bursary when he left VI ScA for Reading University. There he gained a first class degree in physics, and a PhD, to launch him on his career as a research scientist, in various branches of physics, which took him from Reading to Manchester, South Wales and finally Harrogate.

At School he was in West House, a Prefect, a member of the School Chess team and of his House Committee. He was in the OTC, the Philatelic Society and a Science sub-librarian.

In Manchester he met his wife, Barbara, at a club for young professionals; Gordon ran the beginners Bridge section (later in life he became treasurer and then chairman of the ICI Bridge Club in Harrogate).

Colleagues spoke of him as a bright man who excelled in his work, a quiet, modest person with whom they felt at ease and who was willing to share his knowledge and help others.

Gordon possessed many practical skills and was both a DIY enthusiast and keen gardener, pursuits which were sadly hampered towards the end of his life by arthritis. He was a family man, happily married for over 40 years and ever interested in the activities of his daughter, Margaret and son, David.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, Margaret (Mrs Martyn Lambson) and David. We are grateful to Margaret for supplying material for this notice.

Gordon Orchard died on 7 January 2007 aged 80.

KCB

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## FRAZER DEWAR GLEIG (1953-60)

Frazer joined Reading School in 1953 and represented West House in boxing, athletics, swimming, tennis, cricket and rugby, and played for the School 1st XV. Together with Bill McAuley he played the trumpet in both the School orchestra and the Reading Youth Orchestra. His friendship with Judith Ford (viola) led to his being invited to her school leaving party where he met Carole, whom he married in 1966 after she had qualified as a teacher.

On leaving School in 1960 Frazer went to the Oxford School of Architecture but, after 3 years, switched to Structural Engineering, qualifying as a Chartered Engineer in 1973 and becoming a Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers.

By 1979 he was involved in the design of tunnels with Charles Haswell and Partners, one of which was the *'The Island Line'* section of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway. The family lived in Hong Kong for four years until its completion. This was followed by a year working with the British Mass Transit Corporation in Taiwan. In 1989 he was seconded to Ove Arup and Partners to work as the tunnel design engineer for the Taipei Mass Rapid Transit Scheme in Taiwan. After 20 years with Haswell, where he was as an Associate Director, he left to work with Halliburton, Brown & Root on London Underground projects. He was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers' 1999 delegation to China and the Three Gorges Dam Project.



Frazer studied Mandarin part time at The University of Westminster and measured his progress by his ability to travel and make friends in China rather than taking a degree. He enjoyed guiding groups of Chinese visitors around London, Oxford, Bath and Stonehenge.

In 1967 Carole and he settled in Rainham, Kent. Katie was born in 1970 and studied French at Reading University. Sharing her father's love of the Far East, she spent 8 years working in Hong Kong and now works in IT. Fiona followed in 1972 and read Biochemistry at Magdalen College, Oxford. Married to David, their daughter Emily was born in October 2008. Frazer was a truly smitten grandfather, a role he was unfortunately able to enjoy only briefly.

He died after a valiant struggle against Wegeners Granulomatosis, a vasculitic disease. He will be much missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Frazer Gleig died on 20 February 2009, aged 67.

F J Pcock

## JOHN ALEXANDER MONTAGUE AULD (1921-31)



A Man of Kent, born 8 July 1912 in Wye, Jack had ten years at Reading School, the first three in the Junior School's South East House and the latter seven in East House, becoming Vice Captain of the School.

The formidable athlete, Eugene Bourne, was Captain of the School and of East House, and Jack and he were in tandem in many of the activities and on many of the committees of School life. Jack won School Running Colours for a fine third place, to Bourne, in the 1930 Long Run. In the matter of artistic and dramatic skills, it was Jack who held the advantage; praised, for instance, for his performance as King Henry III in the 1929 School play for his "excellent voice – quite the best of the company".

Jack became a journalist, his profession learnt on local papers in Berkshire before the Second World War, in which he served in the Royal Air Force, emerging as a Flight Lieutenant RAF VR.

He had taken a job with the Press Association in 1939 and, on returning to Fleet Street after the War, became successively Manager of PA – Reuter Features and PA Features Limited and sub editor in PA editorial. In 1966 he was appointed to the administrative staff and edited the *Press Association Link* for thirteen years. When he retired he had been external relations manager since 1976.

In retirement he extended his interests to include the activities of Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority; he was concerned about the fate of UK lighthouses. Jack was a quiet and courteous man, gentle in manner but resolute in execution. He had a passionate belief in free speech and great personal integrity, qualities which informed his work and endeared him to those around him.

He is survived by his widow, Barbara, to whom we are most grateful for information supplied. His brother, Pat (P S M Auld OR 1926-33) died in 1989.

Jack Auld died on 16 February 2009 aged 96.

KCB

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## WILLIAM IVOR SHIPLEY MBE (1944 – 45)

William Shipley was an architect of renown, particularly in Malaysia where his considerable contribution to the built environment included the Parliament House complex in Kuala Lumpur, completed in 1963.

He spent one year at Reading School (West House), in LrVB, and later graduated from the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London (his home city). From 1950 - 52 he did National Service as a British Army garrison engineer in Singapore. There he met his wife, Stella.

Returning to Britain he applied, in 1953, to the Crown Agents for work in Singapore but was posted Settlement Architect in Penang where he worked until transfer to Kuala Lumpur in 1956. Back in London he joined Basil Spence, in 1964, and then Fry Drew where he became Senior Partner in the early 1970s.

From 1972 - 78 he again worked in Malaysia as Government Architect of Sabah and then practised in Brunei with International Project Consultants, before moving to Perth, Western Australia.

William Shipley's understanding of modernist architecture enabled him to produce a range of buildings that are important in the context of Malaysian culture beyond their intrinsic functional merit. For his services he was awarded the MBE in 1960 and, in 1964, the Malaysian Order, KMN.

He died in Perth (where he was still practising after 'retirement'), following a sudden onset of cancer, and leaves his widow, Stella, four children and seven grandchildren.

William Shipley died on 9 June 2008 aged 79.

KCB



## BRYAN HAROLD POWELL MBE (1924-33)



Indisputably one of life's gentlemen, Bryan was instantly recognisable from his immaculate turnout - he even gardened in a three piece suit - pipe, and the twinkle in his eye.

He was born on 21 July 1915, the second son of John and Mary Powell. His father was a qualified chemist, dentist and optician who operated Powell's Pharmacy in St Mary's Butts. Bryan's eventually long life was nearly curtailed at an early age when his nursemaid, canoodling with her soldier boyfriend, allowed her charge's pram to roll into the Thames at Caversham. Bryan and pram floated serenely towards Caversham Bridge until rescue by a policeman.

Bryan and his brother had a happy childhood and he attended Castle Hill Academy and then, from the age of nine, Reading School. He was in West House, a member of the OTC, and coxed his house boat, gaining house colours.

The Powells were a musical family – Bryan's mother had been a professional pianist and singer – and in the 1930s brother Jack (J A Powell OR 1923-30) formed a successful dance band, with Bryan as his business manager.

Then came war. Bryan joined up immediately and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in early 1940. He worked on bomb disposal (which led to deafness in later life) and was then seconded to a mounted regiment of the Indian Army, fighting the Japanese in the Far East. He finished the War as a Captain and Regimental Adjutant, having experienced terrible carnage in Burma and once escaping from behind enemy lines in a Dakota under extraordinary circumstances, which will be the subject of an article in the next issue of this magazine. In 1941 he had married Barbara Webb (of another OR family) and she hardly recognised him when he returned in 1945 weighing just 7st 12lbs. He was the only one of the West House IV in which he won his rowing colours to survive the War.

Bryan entered the world of ladies fashion and eventually co-owned three shops. He also became a director and business manager of the family pharmacy and President of the Reading Chamber of Commerce and Trade. He served 10 years as Chairman of Berkshire War Pensions Committee and sat six years on the Central Advisory Committee in the House of Commons (his work for the War Disabled gained him his MBE). He served on numerous other committees including that of the Berkshire Athenaeum Club of which he became Hon Sec and Vice President.

Somehow he fitted in leisure interests, often visiting Lords (he was a long time member of MCC), playing the piano each day, enjoying music – particularly Gilbert and Sullivan - attending the Phyllis Court Club at Henley (he was a member for 50 years) and tending his beloved garden on Caversham Heights.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Sue and Valerie, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His funeral service at St Peter's Church, Caversham was attended by a number of ORs including his cousin K P (Ken) Stevens (1927-32) and J R (Jim) Webb (1952-58).

Bryan Powell died on 10 June 2009 aged 93.

KCB

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**We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this issue and, in particular, to Professor F R (Francis) Terry (1956-63) and Dr F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60) for writing, respectively, the obituaries of Rodney Calvert and Frazer Gleig.**

**Due to pressure of space it has been necessary to hold over, until our Spring issue, a number of notices for ORs named in the In Memoriam column of the last journal. There was an unprecedented number – and we are gladdened that the In Memoriam page in this issue records only 8 names, restoring a welcome balance -Ed.**

# In Memoriam

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

**C T (Colin) Chudley (1943-52)**  
Physicist  
Died 17 December 2008 Aged 75

**A J R (Andrew) Jarvis (1966-72)**  
Motor Dealer  
Died 4 June 2009 Aged 53

**P A (Peter) Rado (1954-62)**  
University Lecturer & Schoolmaster  
Died 25 June 2009 Aged 66

**J S (John) Chapman (1933-39)**  
Retired Chancery Barrister  
Died 31 August 2009 Aged 87

**Revd J W E (John) Brown (1926-31)**  
Clerk in Holy Orders  
Died 13 September 2009 Aged 95

**H (Harry) Weinberger (1954-58)**  
Artist, Lecturer and former Master at School  
Died 15 September 2009 Aged 85

**Dr G H O (Geoffrey) Burgess (1935-44)**  
Chief Scientist at MAFF  
Died 21 September 2009 Aged 83

**A J (Andrea) Waddell (1991-98)**  
Aspiring Model  
Died 15 October 2009 Aged 29

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



# From the Editors



Cricket at Reading School over the centuries has a strong presence in this issue; not too much, we hope, for those of whom this greatest of sports is of no interest whatsoever! Now that there has been no School magazine for a decade to provide a year-on-year record, this issue of *The Old Redingensian* will, at least, provide some update on statistics.

**Details of the 2009 AGM and Annual Dinner can be found on page 24. The AGM package has been mailed within the timeframe required by law and this year the Report and Accounts has reverted to summary form. Those members wishing to read the entire document may request a copy from the Hon Sec (see rear cover for contact details) or download a copy from the Association's website.**

T L (Terry) Cartwright (1955-62) has stepped down as Cricket Rep on Council after nearly three decades involvement with Cricket Week, the last many years as driving spirit. He has earned the admiration and sincere thanks of all who understand his dedication. He stands high amongst those whose efforts have kept the Week alive, from its start in the 1890s, throughout the 1900s, and into the present century.

**The rowing report and images on page 31 are the first contribution to the magazine by T V (Tom) Shore (2006-08) (the first of many we hope).**

The majority of Association members grew up in a society which gave more certainty and security to the individual than today's. Continuity was a key factor. Nowadays, institutions, for instance, abandon their individual identity and forget their heritage in the quest to rebrand in a modern image. In doing this they risk surrendering their main weapon of survival. In the field of education we may question "*What's in a name?*": the answer is that same identity, which it is so vital to retain. Pupils become "students", schools become "colleges" or "academies", single sex education is abandoned, etc. etc. all too often in order to feed the prejudices of over mighty politicians. Take the best of the new, of course, but do not forget "*those noble voices of the past.....*"

**Ernest Dormer, in *Erleigh Court and its Owners*, claims that Dr Routh (1755-1854), the truly remarkable President (for 63 years no less) of Magdalen College, Oxford, asserted that Henry Addington (Prime Minister, 1801-1804) was an OR and that he, Routh, was an old Valpeian (implying that the assertion was therefore conclusive). Routh certainly had many connections with Reading (the living at St Michael's, Tilehurst, for example and, through his wife, to both the Blgrave and Laud families). If we can find the excuse to write further about him, we certainly shall – but it cannot be as an old Valpeian: the dates do not add up, as Routh would have been 26 years of age when Dr Valpy took the reins at Reading School. Routh's successor as President of Magdalen, Frederic Bulley (see *Tracking the Tea Trays* on page 9) certainly was educated under Valpy. Did Dormer mix up his Presidents? Routh was wont to say: "*Always verify your sources, Sir*". Dormer, perhaps, did not.....**

The century that RB Van Wart says G H Bishop scored for the 1st XI (see *Some Random Recollections* p. 25) is not recorded in *A History of Cricket at Reading School*. This may be because there was a break in the School Magazine between 1886 and 1893 (when Dr. Barnard revived it) and there is no easily accessible record for those years. The magazine in termly format continued thereafter for 103 years, then gave way to three annual issues (although the third was not distributed). Now, as mentioned in the first paragraph, there has been no School Magazine for nearly a decade and, in the last three School years, no School List – that other depository of vital information. We have lamented the loss of both before and we lament it still. The record of these years will be at best obscure, if not completely lost, to future generations.



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**This issue's front cover** The front cover of this issue shows the MCC flag (with the kind permission of the Club). The School first played MCC at Erleigh Road in 1898\*. The first win did not come until 1926 since when the School has been victorious on a further 10 occasions, in 1932, 1934, 1942, 1956, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1987, 2006 and 2009. In the latter match the School won by 3 wickets, batting second and scoring 294 for 7, the highest successful 1st XI run chase in memory.

\* There is some contention that Reading School were amongst the earliest opponents of the MCC (which was founded in 1787) but proof remains to be established.