

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Autumn 2012



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Feature Writers in this Issue

Dr P P Mortimer (1953-60) one time Captain of School writes about Sir Hugh Allen on pp 34-35.

The Archivist examines the benefactions of Edgar Milward on pp 28-30.

Production of this issue

The Editors regret the extreme delay in producing the Autumn 2012 edition of *The Old Redingensian* and hope to be back on track with the Spring 2013 issue.

The President's Letter



My time as President is almost up and the year has gone very quickly. I would like to think it has been a productive one, not only in terms of enhancing our already strong links with the School, but also in ensuring the long-term continuity of the Association as an important stakeholder in its development. We welcome onto Council the newly appointed

Headmaster, Ashley Robson, wish him a long and successful tenure and look forward to working with him in the future.

The past few months have seen a number of OR sporting events which were very successful and well attended. Alex Beckey (the School's Director of Sport) and his team are to be commended on the organisation of the 8th OR Festival of Football (held at the University of Reading and reported in the Spring edition of *The Old Redingensian*) and Mike Evans and Barrie Shelton on the Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend which, despite the overcast and somewhat damp conditions on the Sunday, was a very enjoyable event. It also provided the opportunity for many recent ORs to return on the Saturday and attend the presentation of a decanter to Ned Holt OR (1966-72 and Master at School since 1982) who retired at the end of term (the Association also gave him a set of wine glasses on the Sunday).

In July Ant Butler again arranged, together with Steve Longstaff (Master in charge of Rowing), the annual OR rowing event at the School Boat House. Ant also organised, in the same month, a very successful reunion for the class of 2007 which more than 60 ORs attended.

September witnessed the 9th OR Festival of Rugby in weather that was more conducive to Cricket! Thanks go to Alistair Wrenn who ran the event on our behalf, and to Alex Beckey who indefatigably refereed all the matches.

Also in this busy month occurred the visit to the School of a delegation of pupils and staff from Shanghai High School with which Reading School has forged an academic link. The Association hosted a supper for the Chinese and other invited guests in the New Refectory. In recognition of this new and prestigious relationship the Association has established a biennial 'Shanghai Scholarship' of £2,000 which can be used at the School's discretion for sponsorship of those who could benefit

academically from visiting Shanghai. After the supper, I presented a Hinton print on behalf of the Old Redingensians Association to the Principal, John Weeds, a great supporter of the Association, who has taken up the Headship of Cranbrook School. We wish him every success in his new post.

In addition to the existing links with the sporting side of the School, we have now developed a direct contact with the Music Department by assigning David Cox, Vice-President elect, as the member of Council with responsibility for the Arts. A fitting appointment bearing in mind David's own musical prowess and interest in this field. We have already agreed to buy some music for the Department. David is also liaising with the School Chaplain, Rev Chris Evans OR, regarding the purchase of new hymn books for the Chapel.

Last term witnessed the official opening of the New Refectory by Ross Brawn OR. This is a long-overdue facility to which many ORs contributed. Not only is it an excellent environment in which to eat, but it is also a most useful additional meeting place. This year, the AGM will be held there prior to the dinner in Big School so providing an opportunity for ORs to see the new building.

Another development which is worthy of note concerns the OR archive, now housed in a new facility in the Cloisters, *The Kirkwood Room* named after J K (Kerr) Kirkwood OR (1937-44). It has been made possible by some significant donations and the awareness of Council that we need to appropriately preserve the School's written and material heritage. Ken Brown is to be personally congratulated on the work that he has put into this venture over the years and the fruits of his labours are well worth seeing if you get the chance to do so. It also means that the Association has a room for small meetings rather than being 'nomadic'.

The Enterprise Awards were very successful this year and the idea of addressing all four houses individually paid dividends in terms of applications. All applicants received something and there was an additional sum of £2,000 given to the School's Expedition to Tanzania. Thanks go to Michael Maule (Past President) for the work he does to ensure that the awards maintain a high profile, and Frances Greaney (Director of Development at School) for all the School-based administration.

There are many people who make significant contributions to guarantee that the Association works smoothly and efficiently. I would like to take this opportunity to thank personally all the members of the Executive, the Council and our Secretary, Beverley Taylor, for making my Presidential year an enjoyable experience. Floreat Redingensis!

Martin

Notes and News

Norman Wiseman (Master at School 1957-60 – see *'Where Are They Now?'* p 16) made contact about his fellow former master at School M J M (Mike) Brown who, it transpires, had changed address. They are now back in touch.



J P (John) King (1951-58), *pictured*, has retired. He had the remarkable record of teaching history at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury for 48 years without a single day's absence. His twin brother Rev J S (Joe) King (1951-58) is also now retired and living in Gravesend.

Professor J (Julian) Johnson (1974-81), Head of the Music Department at Royal Holloway College, University of London appeared on BBC Four this year at the Proms (21 July) discussing Beethoven prior to Daniel Barenboim's conducting of his fourth and third symphonies. T A (Tom) Cappleman (2001-08) is in the New College, Oxford, team currently competing in *University Challenge* on BBC 2.

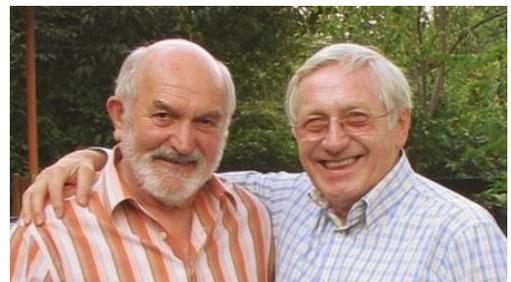
K S (Ken) Mills (1942-47), *pictured*, was presented on Whit-Sunday with a certificate from the Methodist Church to recognise his having been a Local Preacher for 60 years. Now living in Guildford, Ken started training as a preacher in 1948, and became "Fully Accredited" in 1952. He preached his first sermon, in January 1949, at Swallowfield Methodist Church (now closed).



Once again the GB Theatre Company presented Shakespeare on the School Field. This year the cast performed *The Tempest* on Tuesday, 3 July and *The Taming of the Shrew* on both Monday, 2 July and Wednesday 4 July. Unfortunately weather conditions were appalling although the cast struggled bravely through each rain-soaked performance.

The Reading Chronicle of 30 August carried the report of WWII bomber pilot William Anthony Saunders medals going to auction with proceeds to be put towards the new Battle of Britain Museum to be built at Bentley Priory. Saunders was just 20 when killed in action on 14 June 1940 during his 22nd operational sortie. He may have remained at the controls of his burning Blenheim light bomber to enable his two crew members to bale out: both spent the rest of the war as POWs. Saunders' body was never found. The Chronicle did not report that he was a Reading School boy (1932-37). He was a monitor, L/Sgt in the OTC and a School Shooting Colour.

In 1962 P H Lewis Jones (1952-58), then in the Intelligence Corps, married Christine Anne Finch at St Mary's Twickenham (thus soundly contradicting the baser inferences that may be drawn from the fabled description of the Intelligence Corps cap badge as 'a pansy resting on its laurels'). This summer Peter and Christine celebrated their Golden Wedding with a party at their home in Alcester. Many congratulations to them! M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), PP, was present (Peter and Michael, *pictured*, were team-mates in the School 1st XV of 1958 and in County House XVs).



Professor G W (George) Bernard (1961-68) has had a further scholarly book published this year. It is *The Late Medieval English Church; Vitality and Vulnerability Before the Break with Rome* (Yale University Press 2012). George pays tribute to F H (Frank) Terry (Master at School 1946-82) who taught him history and refers to the influence of the School Chapel upon him and his then conventional Protestant viewpoint. George Bernard is editor of *The English Historical Review*. He is Professor of History at the University of Southampton.

Damian Thompson, the Daily Telegraph columnist, recently contrasted the interest in Richard III's now alleged resting place in Leicester with what he evidently perceives is an ignorance in Reading (where he says, 'he was *unlucky enough to grow up*') about King Henry I's burial in the Forbury precincts. Many good citizens of Reading would certainly disagree with him....

S J (Simon) Waller (1998-03) represented Berkshire at Archery and Hockey but achieved International status as a figure skater. Severe health problems including Addison's and Crohn's disease have since set in and following a programme of events designed to raise £10,000 he travelled to receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the USA. For further information please log on to the Friends of Simon Waller Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/238243306283417/>.

The New Refectory



Building of the New Refectory commenced in July 2011 and the facility was put into use on 8 May 2012. The Catering Manager is Mr Mick Buck and the Refectory is open all day for breakfast, break and lunchtime food. As well as hot food there are salads to eat in and snacks from an 'Eat and Go' area. It has become a great resource for the School, also, as a meeting area and for revision. Funding was through the generosity of ORs and parents, contributing to the 1125 Fund Raising Campaign, a grant from the Reading Foundation and substantial matched funding from central Government. The Architect was Mr David Pendery PhD MA DipArch RIBA AABC and the builders were Wilding Butler Construction Limited. To mark this completion of the first Phase of the 1125 Campaign Master-Plan, 60+ guests were invited to the official opening by R J (Ross) Brawn OBE (1966-71), the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team supremo, which took place on 28 July.

At 4 pm refreshments were served on the terrace and Mr Brawn was greeted on arrival by the Chairman of the School Governors, the Principal, Vice-Principal, Captain of School and Prefects. He was then welcomed with a CCF Guard of Honour into the Refectory for a private viewing. At 5 pm everybody was admitted to the Refectory and addressed by the Chairman of Governors, Dr Phillip Mitchell and then by the Principal, Mr John Weeds, before Ross Brawn gave his address and unveiled a commemorative plaque on the south wall. He was given Votes of Thanks by the Captains of School for 2011/12 (Jonathan Stancombe) and for 2012/13 (Matthew Greaves). Official photographs were then taken and drinks and canapés served until the event closure at 7 pm. The photomontage shows leading players, musical entertainment and Guard of Honour. KCB



1 Chairman of Governors 2 Frances Greaney (Development Board) 3 Neil Thomason OR, Philip Mitchell, Virginia Cullura (Development Board) 4 David Pendery 5 Neil and Kimi Thomason 6 Richard Childs (Development Board) 7 The Principal with Ross Brawn and Prof Martin Parsons 8 Matthew Greaves 9 Ashley Robson and Mrs Patricia Daniels 10 Claire Toms, (Chairman, Development Board) 11 Rodney Huggins (Chairman Reading Foundation)

Enterprise Awards

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

| Name | Form | Project | Award |
|---------------------|------|---|-------|
| Ricky Atkins | 7E | Build an App - Guide to Reading School | 75 |
| Daniel Beddow | 13C | Wild Camping and Bushcraft expedition | 200 |
| Joshua Billings | 12E | Run a football tournament | 35 |
| Ka Lok Cheung | 12C | CCF Leadership, First Aid and other skills | 50 |
| Andre Christie | 7W | Build a go-kart | 100 |
| Matt Dupre | 7W | Build a go-kart | 100 |
| Alex Essery | 7W | Building a hovercraft | 75 |
| Alex Fairclough | 12W | Construct model UAV airplane | 75 |
| Will Fieldhouse | 7W | Building a hovercraft | 75 |
| Sam Hayes | 12W | Construct model UAV airplane | 75 |
| Chung Him Law | 12S | Outward Bound Youth Adventure | 150 |
| Stephen Jennings | 12E | Equipment for disco business | 150 |
| Alex Kitching | 7W | Stop-motion animation | 75 |
| Yukon Limbu | 7W | Building a super-hybrid car | 150 |
| Alex Little | 7W | Stop-motion animation | 75 |
| Zohaib Lone | 7W | Stop-motion animation | 75 |
| Seyi Makinde | 12W | Run a football tournament | 35 |
| James Oakley | 13E | 9-day Coptic course at Kings College London | 150 |
| Matthew Oh | 9S | Cricket Leaders Course | 50 |
| George Prove | 11W | National Youth Theatre Workshop | 300 |
| Andrew Prowse | 7W | Build a go-kart | 100 |
| Haozhou Qiu | 12S | Work experience in a German Law Firm | 150 |
| Joe Roast | 7W | Building a super-hybrid car | 150 |
| Noam Rosenbaum | 7C | Purchase of an advanced level flute | 150 |
| Laimonas Ruksnaitis | 10E | Build a wind turbine | 100 |
| Dmitry Samartsev | 10W | Build a wind turbine | 100 |
| William Sandbach | 12S | Run a football tournament | 35 |
| Shourya Sharma | 7W | Building a hovercraft | 75 |
| Shabarish Sriraman | 10E | Build a wind turbine | 100 |
| Alistair Stichbury | 13C | 3-week volunteering project Alathea Bible College, South Africa | 500 |
| Alex Vanlint | 7S | Participate in World School Chess Championship in Romania | 250 |
| Ben Weeks | 12C | Construct model UAV airplane | 75 |
| Adam Weller | 11E | Building a solar oven | 100 |
| Owen Wesley | 12C | CCF Leadership, First Aid and other skills | 50 |
| Roy Zhang | 10S | World Youth Chess Championship | 250 |
| | | | 4255 |

Over the last two decades the Old Redingensians Association has sponsored students of all age groups to undertake a wide range of challenging and creative activities which would enable them to achieve personal objectives and realize specific ambitions, thus enhancing still further their Reading School experience. To date, well over 500 students have benefited and the total OR sponsorship is rapidly approaching the £50,000 mark.

The specific **process** for this awards year was described in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Old Redingensian*. Broad **criteria** remained unchanged; awards are granted to individuals (or small teams of up to three students) who successfully propose projects or activities, which will benefit their personal development; no restrictions are placed on the applications except that all have to demonstrate enterprise, creativity and personal initiative; the OR Awards Panel is positively influenced by projects benefiting a third party and/or making a worthwhile social contribution; students are expected to raise funds through their own endeavours; not just by asking their parents for money and are told that an OR Enterprise Award tops up rather than provides the complete cost of a project; a clear budget has to be prepared and presented to the OR panel for a project. Additionally the

quality of the on-line application, together with a personal undertaking to provide the ORs with a full report, within two months of completion, is factored into the granting of the award.

As a **result** the students listed in the panel above received Enterprise Awards amounting to £4,255, with one notable applicant receiving £500. The number of winners from Year 7 in itself encourages Council to believe that the Awards programme is well worth continuing in its third decade. Also pleasing were the 15 science based/technical projects received; more than in recent years and reflecting added emphasis placed on this category during the OR presentations.

(Incidentally, a separate grant of £2,000 was provided towards the cost of a School group safari consisting of a 34-student team travelling to Tanzania to not only explore the country and climb to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro but also to spend a week helping an impoverished rural village school on the outskirts of Moshi. Whilst not within the criteria above Council felt it a worthy reflection of the essence of the Enterprise Awards programme.)

Michael Maule PP

The length, quality and complexity of many of the reports received back from students is such that it is proposed to make them available on the OR website rather than précis them for *The Old Redingensian*. An example is the report received from Adam Weller; 18 detailed and superbly illustrated pages describing the building of a parabolic solar oven by modification of an existing fire pit. To whet the appetite we reproduce here the photograph of the final product:



CCF Annual General Inspection

| TIME | EVENT |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 0830 | PARADE IN READING SCHOOL QUAD |
| 0845 | DEPART FOR TRAINING AREA |
| 0945 | ARRIVE TRAINING AREA |
| 1000 | STARTEX |
| 1045 | AIR CDRE JENKINS ARRIVES |
| 1200-1300 | LUNCH BREAK AT HQ |
| 1515 | ENDEX |
| 1530 | FINAL PARADE & ADDRESS |
| 1545 | DEPART TRAINING AREA |
| 1645 | RETURN TO READING SCHOOL TERRACE |

Field Day for the School CCF this year coincided with the Biennial Review 'in the field' and took place on 18 October in the Aldershot Training Area.

The Inspecting Officer was an OR, Air Commodore M J M (Mike) Jenkins (1970-77) and he was accompanied by two other ORs, Colonel H R (Huw) Lawford (1970-77) and Group Captain D M (David) Lester Powell (1973-80).

The object of the Exercise was to introduce basic field craft and other skills to new recruits: Senior Cadets undertook the instruction and leadership at a series of 'Stands' (seven in all) around Caesars Camp – familiar to many former members of the Corps – encompassing HQ, First Aid, Campcraft, Fieldcraft, Ambush, Signals, Command Tasks and Recce Patrol. There were 25 minutes devoted to the task at each Stand (travel between Stands took between 10 and 20 minutes).

Wing Commander Tom Walter, Captain Peter Hurst and their team of officers are to be congratulated on an immaculately organised day which must have greatly impressed Squadron Leader David Quick, RAFVR (T) from HQHC and Sergeant Chris Williams of TEST RAF, the observers.

I G (Ian) Judd OR (1962-69) and current Master at School carried out his usual vital task at HQ, beneath Brown Loaf Hill, organising the victuals, and all were blessed with fine, invigorating Autumn weather in which to complete a busy schedule:



Pictured above: 1 Group Captain Lester Powell 2 Air Commodore Jenkins 3 Colonel Lawford 4 Captain Hurst 5 Mr Judd 6 Squadron Leader Quick 7 Wing Commander Tom Walter



Above is a panoramic view of the training area, taken from Caesar's Camp and below are selected images depicting some of the day's activities and personnel.



Each Section was assessed on the success of the task, military skills, timekeeping, team work and technical movement.

All Sections showed exemplary discipline and enthusiasm: the NCO Instructors were fluent, decisive and demonstrated leadership qualities in abundance. From an 'impact' point of view the gory realism on the First Aid Stand won the day, but it was backed by good sound procedure under an impressive NCO in Cpl Wesley. The Signals Section – runners-up in *Exercise Rolling Thunder*, in Dorset, at the first time of entering this national competition in 2010 and winners for the last two years looked more than capable of defending their title in 2013 but regrettably their very success has rendered them ineligible to compete this time round. 'Ambush' and 'Fieldcraft' were demonstrated most impressively and indeed the blips and glitches normally encountered on exercises in the field, at any level, were notably absent.

Back at HQ, a hollow rectangle was formed under Sgt Cheung, senior Army Cadet, with military precision. Air Cdre Jenkins, and both his contemporary Officers, addressed the Parade inspirationally and from the view point of men who, as cadets, had enjoyed the similar Field Days, in, indeed, the same 'fields'.

Air Cdre Jenkins' verdict, as Inspecting Officer, was (unsurprisingly in view of the foregoing) mighty favourable!

Your Co-editors were most impressed with the events of the day; the Corps flourishes despite a disadvantaged state. This will be discussed in the Spring 2013 issue of this journal which will also carry extended portraits of the three OR regular Officers who made the Biennial Inspection such a special day. KCB

NB The Kirkwood Room has a substantial photographic record of the Biennial Inspection on display until March 2013. The Editors urge readers to visit it – Ed.

Events

Memorial Service for John Illman – Saturday 14 April 2012

The School flag was flying when a Memorial Service for J (John) Illman CMG (1951-59) (see Obituary in the Spring 2012 issue of this journal) was held in the School Chapel on a sunny Spring day last April. The Service was led by the Rev David Hemsley (1945-55), Honorary Chaplain of the Old Redingensians Association (**image 4**) and Mr Graham Ireland (**9**), former Director of Music at School, was the organist.

The speakers included (**8**) M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59) Past President of the Association, (**3**) D (David) Chesterton CB (1951-58), (**1**) Jonathan Illman (son), (**6**) Dermot Flanagan (HM Diplomatic Service), (**5**) Richard Ralph CMG CVO (former Ambassador to Peru) and (**7**) Professor M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70) President of the Association. The reminiscences of Sir Rob Young GCMG (HM Diplomatic Service Rtd) were read to the congregation.

Present were Mrs Liz Illman (**2, third from right**) and many members and friends of the family, former colleagues of John and many Old Redingensians. After the Service a reception was held in Big School. KCB



Class of 1952 Reunion – Tuesday, 19 June 2012

The third reunion of the Class of '52, which coincided with 60 years since we all started out at Reading School, was held at Caversham Heath Golf Club on Tuesday, 19 June 2012. In all 21 people were in attendance and the gathering was regarded as a great success. The atmosphere was totally relaxed with everyone who attended deep in conversations that lasted throughout the sit-down meal and into the evening.



Peter Latto, Malcolm Owen, Jim Webb and Duncan Sturrock

Ten golfers played in an inter-house competition for the 1952 Intake Cock House Cup to be presented by last year's winners, West House. The Cup has kindly been donated by Trevor Smith to be played for each year.

It was a beautiful day especially as the last few weeks had been so wet. The course was very difficult, the grass long after the recent bad weather and the rough had been allowed to grow. There was a lot of ball searching and head scratching, and for those that managed to keep the ball straight there were still numerous bunkers to contend with. Consequently the scoring was low.

The house golf teams comprised (*so you ducked out again, Borders? – Ed*):

COUNTY HOUSE *Malcolm Owen, Jim Webb and Peter Latto*
EAST HOUSE *Alan Rowland; Mickey Cleere; Phil Hoffler*
WEST HOUSE *Duncan Sturrock, Trevor Smith, Gordon Abington and Barrie Sloan*

The winners for 2012 were County House.

The golf concluded at about 3 pm and the golfers then met up with the **non-golfing attendees** who were: *George Potter; David Downs; Cedric Scroggs; Norman Sharp; Colin Burton; Dez Maule; Michael Maule; Roy Seymour; David George; Dave Hopkins and John Lewer.*

Apologies were received from *John Boxwell; Peter Lewis-Jones; Anthony Brown; John Boss; Tony Collins; Bob Ford; Keith Martin; John Sessions; David Hill; Brian Wallis; Clive Windebank and John Bamford.*

After a good chat everyone sat down to eat at about 5pm, The Vale Grace in Latin was recited by all the attendees. The staff at CHGC provided an excellent service and everybody was complimentary regarding the food and the service. After coffee, Duncan thanked everybody who had come from all parts of the UK and there was a special round of applause for Dez Maule and Roy Seymour who had travelled from Australia and USA respectively.

After a couple of jokes and the presentation of the Golf Cup (*see image above*), the group continued to chat until the last few drifted away at about 7.30pm. Duncan Sturrock

Editors' note: *Those of the 1952 intake who have not yet registered with John Cummings are urged to contact him at john1941@class-of-1952.com (or Barrie Sloan at barriesloan43@sky.com. You will then be able to access the Class of 52 website which apart from other interesting information carries a varied selection of images (by Peter Latto) of the above event.*

Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend – 30 June and - 1 July 2012

This year's Festival saw further consolidation of the new 'Weekend' format which replaced Cricket Week. On the Saturday, the Old Redingensians triumphed over a strong School XI (Ned Holt's report appears on p 22). This was the last match that Ned – E J Holt OR – will be involved with as a Master at the School, for he has now retired after teaching History at Erleigh Road for 30 years. To mark his retirement the cricketers' lunch in the New Refectory was swelled by a large number of friends and ORs, and Ned found 50 sitting down to lunch with him. Vice-President Ken Brown made a presentation of a wine decanter to Ned on behalf of the Association. The pay bar was kindly organised and operated by Mrs Beverley Taylor in the Refectory.

The Six-A-Side knock-out competition on the Sunday, organised by J M (Mike) Evans (Master at School 1968-05) was another success, and indeed oversubscribed before the event. 'Team F', captained by James Berger-North (2004-11), emerged as the winners and received their trophy from Mike Evans in front of the marquee. The marquee, bar operated by Ian Clark (Steward at Redingensians RFC) and adjacent barbecue proved popular, as did tours of the School, including, Big School in all its present glory, and the new attraction of The Kirkwood Room.

Music, on the terrace, was provided quite splendidly and to great acclaim by the School Big Band under Director of Music at School, Richard Meehan.

Barrie Shelton, Social Secretary of the Association, and Frances Greaney, Director of Development at the School, are to be congratulated on the smooth organisation of the weekend. KCB



Top: Ned Holt speaks at his lunch. **Below left:** The Kirkwood Room (East wall). **Below right:** The School Big Band.

Reception for Shanghai High School – Thursday, 12 July 2012



The new Headmaster, Mr Ashley Robson, has been instrumental in effecting the partnership with Shanghai High School that is now in place. Shanghai High School was established in 1865 and is now a top public high school with over 3,000 pupils (all boarders) on a campus of 56 acres in Xuhai District, Shanghai. It was the first Chinese school to start an international division and that, in turn, became the first in China to offer an international baccalaureate programme. It has produced very many high profile personnel in China and most of its pupils go on to study at the world's leading Universities.

On 12 July, the OR Association co-hosted with the School a reception for a visiting party of Chinese pupils and staff who had been staying with Reading School families. (A party from Reading School received outstanding hospitality in Shanghai in October 2011). This most enjoyable event was also attended by Reading School staff, parents, ORs, representatives of Kendrick School, and by spouses/partners.



Top left and centre right, supper in the Refectory; top right and bottom right, reception in Big School; bottom left, the Shanghai Scholarship cheque is presented to Mr Weeds by Prof Parsons and Mrs Hayes translates.

After speeches in Big School by Professor Martin Parsons, President of the OR Association, Mr John Weeds, Principal of Reading School, and Professor Phillip Mitchell, Chairman of the School Governors, presentations were made to the Chinese guests: most attractive Wedgwood plates being given to the ladies, OR ties and copies of *Reading School, The First 800 Years* (signed by Martin Parsons, who co-authored the book) to the men. Additionally, a framed Hinton print of the School was presented. The Chinese guests responded with great charm and humour and, where necessary, Mrs Hannah Hayes, who teaches Chinese at Reading School, acted as translator. Professor Parsons then announced the foundation of the Shanghai Scholarship – referred to in his President's letter on p 3 - to enthusiastic applause.

A supper followed in the New Refectory and the catering Manager, Mr Mick Buck, excelled himself. After the meal, and whilst the guests were having coffee, the opportunity was taken to mark Mr John Weeds's imminent departure, to Cranbrook, with the gift of a large mounted and framed Hinton print of the School which, it is hoped, will remind him of what he has left behind!

This provided a happy conclusion to a most successful occasion due, in no small part, to the Chinese guests. KCB

Class of 2007 Five-Years-On Barbecue – Saturday, 14 July 2012

Organised by Council member Ant Butler, Association Secretary Beverley Taylor, and with the help of School Development Director Frances Greaney, this first event of its kind was a resounding success with more than 60 ORs attending, many of whom had not seen each other since leaving School. The plan for a barbecue and bar on the terrace was defeated by the weather, but they were set up in the Cloisters and there was a move into the Refectory when the temperature began to fall.

There were some members of staff also present and there was a general reluctance to leave at the end of the afternoon. Next year it is intended to repeat the event (for the Class of **2008**) and it is hoped that this will become a regular fixture in the OR calendar, with organisation by an individual from the appropriate year group (either acting as a member of Council or with the backing of Council).

Ant Butler's efforts in initiating this event are greatly to be praised.

KCB

12th Fifty-Plus Years On OR Reunion Luncheon



This luncheon is not organised by the Association, being by the private invitation by D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) and P C (Peter) Stevens (1944-54) to their friends and contemporaries. It is held at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall each January. A report will appear in the Spring 2013 issue.

Forthcoming Events



9TH OR FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2013

At the time of going to press the date for the President's Shield match has not been finalised.



OR GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING 2013 MEETING

The Spring meeting will take place at Reading Golf Club on Tuesday, 16 April. New players are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the meeting please contact **Steve Johnston** at sij@kjandp.co.uk or tel: 0118 9470477 (office).



PARSONS LECTURE SERIES

A lecture will be delivered on 26 April 2013 in Big School by Professor Martin Parsons to coincide with the launch of his latest book *'Ill Take That One Too!*'. Further details of this and other lectures will be made available on the website.



CLASS OF 2008 FIVE-YEARS-ON BARBECUE

Preparations are being made for 13 July to hold the BBQ and bar at School. This event will be open to all ORs who left the School between 2001 and 2008. Those planning to attend please email Ant Butler antbutler@gmail.com.

** The Spring 2013 issue will also provide details of: the **Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend** (29-30 June); the **5th Annual ORs v School Boat Race** (email Ant Butler if you wish to compete); the **Autumn Golf Meeting**; the **10th OR Festival of Rugby**; the **London Drinks Party**; **Remembrance Sunday** (10 November); the **AGM** (Refectory) and **Annual Dinner** (Big School) on 30 November.

Details of all of the above will also be posted on the website www.oldredingensians.org.uk. The Old Redingensians Facebook group is a further source of information for its members.

The editors are always pleased to hear of, and give publicity to, informal or other gatherings of OR age groups etc.

The Old School List

In a wild moraine of forgotten books,
On the glacier of years gone by,
As I plied my rake for order's sake,
There was one that caught my eye:
And I sat by the shelf till I lost myself.
And heard lost voices and saw lost looks,
As I pored on an Old School List.

What a jumble of names! there were some that I knew,
As a brother is known: to-day
Gone I know not where, nay I hardly care,
For their places are full: and, they--
What climes they have ranged: how much they're changed!
Time, place and pursuits assist
In transforming them: stay where you are: adieu!

You are all in the Old School List.

There are some who did nothing at school, much since:
And others much then, since naught:
They are middle-aged men, grown bald since then:
Some have travelled, and some have fought:
And some have written, and some are bitten
With strange new faiths: desist
From tracking them: broker or priest or prince,
They are all in the Old School List.

There's a grave grey lawyer in King's Bench Walk,
Whose clients are passing few:
He seldom speaks: in those lonely weeks,
What on earth can he find to do?
Well, he stroked the eight -- what a splendid fate!--
And the Newcastle barely missed:
"A future Lord Chancellor!" so we'd talk
In the days of the old School List.

There were several duffers and several bores,
Whose faces I've half forgot,
Whom I lived among, when the world was young,
And who talked "no end of rot":
Are they now little clerks who stroll in the Parks
Or scribble with grimy fist,
Or rich little peers who hire Scotch moors?
Well -- they're all in the old School List.

There were some who were certain to prosper and thrive,
And certain to do no more,
Who were "capital chaps," and, tho' moderate saps,
Would never stay in after four:
Now day after day they are packed away,
After being connubially kissed,
To work in the city from ten to five:
There they are in the old School List.

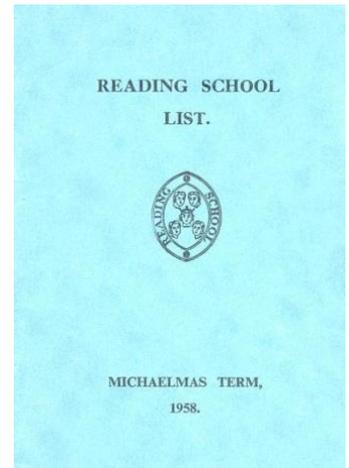
There were two good fellows I used to know.
--How distant it all appears!
We played together in football weather,
And messed together for years:
Now one of them's wed, and the other's dead
So long that he's hardly missed
Save by us, who messed with him years ago:
But we're all in the old School List.

James Kenneth Stephen (1859 – 92)

J K Stephen was an Etonian but his well-known poem is not only worth reproducing for its own sake, its subject has a widespread relevance. For the co-editors of this magazine it strikes a heartfelt chord because, since the demise of the Reading School List in 2007, our labours have been mightily increased when it comes to verifying facts – which is so essential for the organ of record that we mean The Old Redingensian to be.

Since Reading School moved to Erleigh Road (and perhaps before) until the fateful year above

there was a School list. For most of that time it was in the familiar 'Blue Book' format (as illustrated), containing the Bidding Prayer, list of masters (with their qualifications and where they had obtained them), School officers, the



indispensable (to us and to any future researchers), alphabetical list of boys giving initials, house, date of birth, form, date of entry to the School (and often indicating brothers, membership of the Corps etc) and a separate listing by form (showing form master and form room).

The information packed into that slim item was remarkable. Unfortunately, for whatever reasons, the last decades of the twentieth century saw the tried and tested format constantly tampered with. The Blue Book's greatest facility was destroyed by the omission in many years of the alphabetical listing with all its detail (even if the year is known searching for a name by form alone is a tedious affair).

Ironically in its final year of 2006/7 the list had returned to (almost) traditional format. Then the decision was taken to scrap it. It is true that the termly School Calendar has been enlarged to include some information once found in the Blue Book but it is not enough. It is also true that the School now has over 800 boys, many more of whom enter at different stages than the School of 500+ boys of yore. In earlier days, nonetheless, termly supplements to the Blue Book were issued to record comings and goings.

This handy reference is much missed and one fears that the infinitely less accessible computer records will not be retained for posterity, in any case.

KCB

Where are they now?

By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

So we can inform contemporaries we ask members to send news of themselves to K C Brown, Pearmain, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, Tel: 0118 327 9917 or email: kcbrown11@aol.com.

D J ROBOTOM (SOUTH HOUSE 1967-74)

Former Captain of Boarders, David graduated from Hatfield College, University of Durham with a BSc in Geology & Geophysics in 1977 and joined Shell International as a Petroleum Engineer the same year. In true Shell fashion postings to Qatar, The Hague, Aberdeen, London and Nigeria ensued, as did marriage to Betty and two children, James and Joanna. While in Nigeria, David also completed an MBA from Henley Management College, which enabled him to switch careers from geoscience to the murky world of international oil and gas negotiations. David left Shell to join Texaco in 1992 as VP for Business Development for Europe and Central Asia, spending much of his time in Kazakhstan, Poland and the newly formed Czech Republic. After a brief return to Shell in the early 2000s to work on Liquefied Natural Gas projects in Hawaii (tough but someone had to do it...), Iran, Mexico and Cameroon, David spent the next six years with BG plc in various commercial roles before joining his present company, Third Energy, as Chief Financial Officer and Commercial Director in 2011. After nearly forty years away, David has moved back to Reading with his partner, Shirley, Assistant Director for the adoption charity, PACT. Taking up where he left off at School and University, David has joined Reading Rowing Club.

G SHAW (BOARDERS AND COUNTY 1951-57)

Graham joined as a boarder in West Wing, having spent the previous year at Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. He thinks that perhaps because of his upbringing by his doting maternal grandparents in North London (his mother having died and father gone to war), he tended towards laziness and dislike of rules. He left School from form 65, having achieved A levels in English, History and French and House Colours for Rugby, and School Colours for Rowing. Graham rowed at 6 in the VIII, which won the Junior Eights at Molesey Amateur Regatta in 1957, and in the successful County House Boats of the time. He also achieved a record of approximately 45 detentions in one term of 1954! After two years as production manager of a small paint factory, following three months pre-Christmas temporary employment at Heelas, Graham was called up for two years 'unpaid holiday' in the REME. When demobbed, he worked as a salesman for a couple of furnishers, and in 1968 founded Fineweave Carpets, the business grew to eleven shops and a warehouse, and he retired in 1998, 'having played a lot of squash, and learned to fly in 1985'. Graham was Chairman of Wokingham Round Table 1976 and President of Easthampstead Rotary in 1990. He married Judith

(an ex-Abbey girl) in 1960, sadly separating in 2006, but remaining on good terms with her; they raised a daughter and son, and have two grandchildren. Graham lives in Crowthorne, with Diane, and spends about three months a year in Spain, in a villa shared with Judith. His current interests are jigsaws, the National Trust, reading, squash (he is still playing at the age of 73) and 'tennis – badly'. Graham writes that he 'is skint, but HAPPY'.

N WISEMAN (MASTER AT SCHOOL 1957-60)

Norman, BSc, Durham University and St Catherine's College, Cambridge, taught Physics (replacing A J 'Bony' Grigg, Master at School 1921-56) at School from 1956-1960, during which he captained ORRUFC at Bath Road for two years in succession and was heavily involved in School sport. From 1960-65 he was Head of Physics at Morpeth Grammar School – and captained Morpeth Old Edwardians RFC (he later became President). Deciding that the comprehensive system of state education was not going to be for him he left and after various posts became Head Master of Astley High School in 1973 until retirement in 1988. Injury had ended his rugby career in the early 1970s; he played hockey for a few years more but gradually gave his leisure time over to bird watching, hiking and walking Lakeland fells, with climbing excursions elsewhere (including scaling the Matterhorn, climbing Mt Kilimanjaro and Ayers Rock). He and Ros undertook a worldwide programme of exploration, safari, camping, walking and swimming from the Arctic Circle to the Galapagos, and all points in between and around, until ill health set in. Norman suffered strokes in 2000 and 2010 and, with a botched knee replacement, movement is now restricted – but life is still enjoyed! Their two children are Kate (born weeks after Norman left Reading School) and David, and home remains in Morpeth.



The Headmaster's Letter



It is with great pleasure that I write my first letter for *The Old Redingensian* in my first term in post as Headmaster of Reading School. I am committed to ensuring that Reading School is a 'World Class School', a meritocracy that values a positive attitude and the development of character. I believe in the importance of inspiring students through inspirational teaching, of developing the integrity of students and encouraging a global perspective.

We celebrate the achievement of the most recent cohort of old boys whose academic achievements at A Level placed Reading School 8th in the league tables. This year 19 students have progressed to undergraduate studies at Oxford and Cambridge; in addition, 14 will study medicine elsewhere (see p 19 – Ed). The vast majority of students will attend one of the Russell Group universities. Undoubtedly we are very proud of the achievements of our Year 13 students, whose success has been due to their hard work, inspirational teaching and the support of members of the ORA. Many old boys help prepare prospective Oxbridge students, medics and dentists. Thank you for your continued contribution.

Everything that we strive to achieve is driven by the desire to build on the foundations of the School, including its underlying values as an institution that promotes excellence based on merit. I strongly believe

that it is necessary to have the highest expectation of behaviour, attitude and appearance and want our boys to take pride in their appearance and uphold the values of Reading School. Since September we have been working hard to ensure that traditions such as a smart appearance and pride in the uniform are strengthened.

We are committed to providing a stimulating environment for our students and staff. There have been excellent improvements to dining facilities, lighting, signage and décor. In addition, parts of South House and East Wing boarding houses have been successfully transformed, dramatically improving social areas for the boarders.

Motivational developments have already been put in place, courtesy of support from ORs. A programme of speakers, coordinated by Mrs Fran Smith, Head of Year 13, represents a central part of our drive to enthuse the Sixth Form. This would not have been possible without the generous contribution from a donor, a member of the Old Redingensians Association. In addition, we are developing a Reading School version of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. We want all of our pupils to be motivated and develop their leadership skills.

I believe in nurturing a vision that enhances an international perspective. The *Shanghai Scholarship*, generously funded by the Old Redingensians Association, is a key component of our strategy for improvement. Crucially, our partnerships with schools in China and Denmark enable us to learn from others in terms of both academic achievement and personal development. The strengthening of these links and the development of other partnerships internationally is a strategic priority for Reading School.

A healthy mind in a healthy body is the key to education and I am a passionate advocate of the importance of sport. The Rugby Sevens tournament, held in beautiful weather in September, was a resounding success. The standard was impressive and the attitude of the participants was outstanding. Spiritual development is enhanced by the inspirational work of our Chaplain and all boys will benefit from the generous gift enabling new hymn books to be used for our daily Chapel services. Thank you for your continued support.

It is my aim to work with the ORA to help develop Reading School as a World Class School that inspires, nurtures integrity and develops open minds. As a priority, I will be looking into ways of ensuring that we can work in partnership with the Old Redingensians Association to ensure that Reading School flourishes now and in the future.

One line of research shows that Reading School is the twentieth oldest school in the world. As a teacher of history I am happy to look back to 1125 but also to look forward to 2025. The 900th anniversary of the founding of the School is not too far away!

Ashley Robson
Headmaster
Reading School

NB Some details of the Headmaster's career may be found in the Editorial – see p 55 – Ed.

The School Campaign for the 1125 Fund - *Update*



Frances Greaney (pictured) School Director of Development writes:



The Refectory, first major project developed as a result of the 1125 Campaign, is now an integral part of day to day life at school. It is in constant use from early morning breakfasts for boarders and day students, to late evening, when boarders have supper. It has also been the venue for several OR events in recent months, including the cricket weekend in June, the 2007 Leavers reunion in July and the rugby weekend in September.

The Governors are now moving ahead with the next phases of the 1125 Campaign. The aim is to expand and upgrade science and sports facilities, both on the main School site and at Morgan Road. In the next few months, they will commission detailed designs with the aim of seeking planning permission in 2013.

In the meantime, the Governors have agreed a major refurbishment of the technology laboratories, in preparation for offering computer science as a subject option to all students from September 2013. The rationale for offering computer science is simple – it will equip our students with the skills that Industry and Business need now and in the future.

Computer science also fits well with the other subjects, and will give students opportunities to apply the abstract concepts learned in maths and physics to problems in the real world. The curriculum will cover areas such as programming, operating systems, computer components and practical projects. The Technology Department is now headed by H (Haris) Hussain (OR 1995–00) (*pictured right – Ed*), and he will lead on developing the new curriculum.



Over the next nine months or so, we will need to do a major refurbishment of one of the laboratories and to upgrade the equipment in all three labs. We will be able to cover the refurbishment costs from existing funds. However, we will need to raise funds to equip and furnish a hundred benches, at a cost of £500 per bench.

We will be launching our “**Build a Bench Appeal**” shortly, and we will let you know more about the appeal in the coming months. We will be offering supporters the chance of funding a technology bench, and having their name attached to it. If this is something that interests you, please contact me at fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk or phone me on 0118 9015600 ext 264.

Some forthcoming events for your diary

We have several great music events at the school throughout the year. The standard of musicianship is extremely high, and a fantastic evening is guaranteed. ORs are always very welcome to attend.

- **4 December** - Michaelmas Concert – 7.30pm in Big School
- **17 December** – Carol Service, starting at 7.30pm in St Luke’s Church, Erleigh Road
- **4 March** – Big Bands at Big School starting at 7.30pm in Big School
- **15 July** – Summer Concert starting at 7.30pm in Big School

If you are interested in attending any of these events, or wish to be involved in the 1125 Campaign, please contact Frances Greaney, Director of Development on 0118 9015600 ext 264 or email development@reading-school.co.uk.

The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association continue to urge members to give their support.

Cheques should be made payable to: Reading School 1125 Fund and Bank transfers made to: Sort Code: 30-67-99 Account No: 27039460. Donation forms are available from Frances Greaney (fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk) at Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW (tel: 0118 901 5600 ext 264 or may be downloaded at <http://www.reading-school.co.uk/14/document-zone>).



School News

Reading School were placed 8th, one behind Kendrick, in the table providing A Level results for 2012 from 420 State Schools, having achieved 92.97% passes at grades A*, A or B of which 35.74% were A* (or International Baccalaureate, which was included under this grading). Last year the School was 18th with Kendrick at 19th. In GCSE, the School's 100% of candidates with 5 or more A* to C grades – but only 80.20% of A* to A – was sufficient only to place them 25th (Kendrick were 8th).

19 boys will go to Oxbridge, per the table below, compared with 23 last year.

| Oxford | Cambridge |
|--|---|
| Luke Barratt University College (Classics) | Simrun-Shaan Basuita Pembroke (Natural Sciences) |
| Alexander Breton Trinity (Medicine) | John Crawford Jesus (Law) |
| Alistair Collyer St John's (Economics & Management) | Robin Elliott Clare (Mathematics) |
| Nicholas De Mulder New College (Law with French Law) | Matthew Halligan Emmanuel (Natural Sciences) |
| Christopher Mansfield Jesus (Economics & Management) | Thomas Hayes Downing (Mathematics) |
| James Oakley Brasenose (Classics with Oriental Studies) | Richard Parkinson Pembroke (Engineering) |
| Oliver Roth University College (English Language & Lit) | Satya Pyla St John's (Economics) |
| | Daniel Richman Selwyn (Mathematics) |
| | Robert Starley Emmanuel (Natural Sciences) |
| | Steven Tilbury Jesus (Engineering) |
| | Benjamin Vandersluis Churchill (Medicine) |
| | Chengran Xie Trinity (Mathematics) |

Another 14 boys have gained places at medical schools as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Owais Ahmed University College, London | Samuel Hutchison Birmingham |
| Ayodeji Ajanaku Birmingham | Luke McNickle Kings College, London |
| Edward Ani Manchester University | Jacob Moneim University College, London |
| Sohaib Deen Southampton | William Moore-Kelly Nottingham |
| Mohamed Elhassan Kings College, London | Amar Nanda Imperial College, London |
| Tristan Fletcher Cardiff | Michael Thomas University College London |
| Joshua Gemmill Sheffield | Joseph Toms St George's, University of London |

The partnership with Shanghai High School is referred to elsewhere in this journal. A partnership with Frydenhøjskolen in Copenhagen has also been forged and an exchange visit for 24 Year 9 pupils was funded through the British Council.

A team from Mr Jan Norgaard's successful geography department eventually won the Geographical Association *WorldWise Quiz* in 2011 and this year a team added the GA *WorldWise Challenge* held in Blencathra, Keswick against strong competition with James Woolaghan (Y8) also winning the Individual Fieldwork Competition.

The proceeds from The Parents Association's well established Spring Fayre on 12 May have been put towards the completion of the Observatory Garden and construction of an outdoor classroom. Mr Adrian Drew and his Spring Fayre Committee deserve congratulations and gratitude for much hard work to achieve another impressive result.

The second Reading School Golf Day took place on 25 September 2012 at Sonning Golf Club. Last year's event raised over £4,000 towards the New Refectory; this year's total gleaned from entry fees and the auction at the Event Dinner was even better at £4,300

Of 217 gold medals awarded in the UK Biology Olympiad, six went to Reading School boys. Robert Starley (Y13) was one of 16 finalists at the University of Birmingham. He was subsequently selected for the UK team for the International Biology Olympiad in Singapore.

Football (the main winter sport of the School in the last part of the nineteenth century until it reverted to rugby in 1901) made one of its periodic returns, alongside the oval ball game, in 2004 and remains strong with the 1st XI having a good run in the Gibbs Cup and repeating last year's 2nd place finish in their league. The 2nd XI won the West Berkshire League. Mr Tom Bellinger of the PE Department is football coach.

For the third time in four years, the Reading School Chess Team has reached the semi-final of a national competition. In July at Uppingham School they won the English Chess Federation's *National Schools Plate*. The championship itself was retained by Manchester Grammar School who beat Reading School in last year's final and met Wellington in this year's final (Wellington put out RS). Congratulations to Ben Vandersluis (Y13) and his talented team, which also provided half the Berkshire County U/18 team that finished second in the ECF U/18 championships. Reading School finished joint winners (with Haberdashers Aske) of the Schools Cup.

Meanwhile, on an individual level, Matthew Wadsworth (7E), William Foo (9W) and Roy Zhang (10S) have all been invited to play in the World Youth Chess Championships in Slovenia this November. What a fine achievement for them all. (Matthew is currently the highest rated U/12 player in the Country). It does not stop there; Alex Vanlint (7S) is representing England at the World School Individual Chess Championships in Romania this year.

Nineteen boys from Years 7 & 8 were invited to take part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Seven gained distinction; of those, three gained bronze medals, one silver, and two finished in the top 50, gaining gold and a book prize.

Robin Elliot (Y13) was selected to represent the UK in two Olympiads this September – the International Informatics Olympiad and the Balkan Mathematics Olympiad. Daniel Richmond (Y13) also made it to the final of the UK Informatics Olympiad - two Reading School boys amongst sixteen finalists was a remarkable achievement in itself.

Kieran Toms (Y10) won the Handicap Competition at the annual Berkshire Schools Golf Competition, on 13 April, by four shots over thirty six holes medal play.

Y11 drama student George Prove has been accepted into the National Youth Theatre.

A factual display commemorating the centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic was put on in the LRC (the Library). Frederick William Edge, a deck steward, who did not survive, was, incidentally, the great grandfather of Mrs Jo Lidbetter, the School Office Manager. An Olympic display was also mounted focusing on the 1904, 1948 and 2012 Games (all held in Britain). Reading School's own Olympians, M (Martin) Hyman (Rome 1960) and W/Cdr R F B (Ronald) Guy (Helsinki 1952) also featured.

The recently established Gardening Club is flourishing, and produce from what was formerly the East Wing garden was used to create a three course meal last July. A shed has been built by some of the Y13s and ten boys are regularly tending their patches. The Parents Association is creating an outdoor classroom and a herb garden.

There have been two joint concerts this year, the first with Queen Anne's School and the second with Abbey.

Mr Rob Wilson, MP for Reading East, was guest speaker at Junior Prize Giving on July 3rd (Years 7, 8, 9 & 10). County House won the Pountney Challenge Trophy for highest overall marks in examinations.

Jonathan Davies (Y12) added to his string of athletic successes this year by winning the English Schools 3000 m. race at Gateshead on 7 July. James Smith (Y10) finished 7th in his category in the British Solo Ice Dance Championship. Edward Shorland (Y9) won a bronze medal in the J14 Single Sculls at the British National Rowing Championships.

Debating has made a comeback in the School and a Debating Club has been set up. Nikolai Ciecierski-Holmes (Y13) is Captain of Public Speaking.

Office holders for the 2012/13 School Year are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Captain of School | Matthew Greaves (School) (<i>left</i>) |
| Vice Captain of School | Daniel Brock (East) (<i>right</i>) |
| Captain of School House | Jordan Quanborough |
| Captain of East House | Bobby He |
| Captain of County House | Joe Downes |
| Captain of West House | Harsha Maturu |



Captain of Rugby
Captain of Football

Hugo Lu
Harry Gowers

CCF Senior Army Cadet
CCF Senior RAF Cadet

Sgt Ka Lok Cheung
Sgt Owen Wesley

There are currently **100** staff, including part-timers, working at the School. The teaching staff comprises the Headmaster, Deputy Headteacher, and two Assistant Headteacher as their Senior Leadership. There are then five College Leaders for the various disciplines and 55 other teaching staff including the various heads and deputy heads of departments. The four houses are headed by:

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| School | Mrs J M Green | County | Mrs L Hall |
| (East Wing | Mr B D Coggan) | East | Mrs V Geraghty-Green |
| (South House | Mr C J Evans) | West | Mr M R Cooper |

The 35 associate staff includes the Business Manager, Administration Department (10), the Finance Department (2), Estates and Property (4), Development (2), Learning Resource Centre (3), IT Support (2), Lab Technicians (4), Cover Supervisor (2), Exams (1), CCF (1), Music (1), the two Boarding House matrons and a gap year student.

Teaching staff who have left are:

R Giubertoni, E Holt, Vivienne Jenkins, Alexandra Toms, J Weeds

Teaching staff who have joined are:

W Bailey-Watson, J Chokkar, Clara Heston, Susanne Senftlechner, H Hussain

Associate staff who have left are:

Eve Canniffe, Anna Fowler, Sandra Kurton, Danuta Parsons

Associate staff who have joined are:

Rebecca Cooper, Caroline Hoyle, Amanda Hutchison, Emily Turner, S Vale

This year's Gap Year student is:

B Williams

H (Haris) Hussain is an Old Redingensian (1995-00) so, as E S (Ned) Holt (1966-72) has retired there are still three ORs on the staff, the others being Rev C J (Chris) Evans (1990-97) and I G (Ian) Judd (1962-69).

Staff Leaving Notices

E S Holt (1982–2012)



Ned Holt arrived at Reading School in 1982 after a decade teaching at Plymouth College to take over the history department from Frank Terry. But it was his second coming for he had been a pupil at the School (1966-72) and won an Open Scholarship in History to Merton College Oxford. So it did not take him long to ease himself into the ways of Reading School both in pedagogic and in sporting terms – a left-hander at the top of the order was a welcome addition to the staff All Stars XI.

It is one thing to turn a mediocre department around, quite another to maintain the standards of one with an established record of excellence. This Ned did with great success through the eighties despite being faced by the tsunami of educational reforms at the end of the decade and the beginning of the next.

Ned was appointed Head of Sixth Form by Peter Mason (Headmaster 1990-97), a position which led later to an assistant headship. It is fair to say that Ned established a rapport with sixth formers – whether academic high flyers or the occasional recalcitrant time-server – which trickled into and across the School's teacher – student relationships and set a relaxed but respectful tone which was, and is, hugely impressive to outsiders, not least Ofsted Inspectors, and to which past alumni often pay tribute. Ned has over the years become the most patient and understanding of men, and his handling of lesson cover – one of the hottest of hot school management potatoes – no doubt required on

occasion every ounce of that patience. His overseeing in recent years of the admissions system required another set of skills, swiftly acquired and carefully administered.

Ned has unarguably made one of the major contributions to Reading School's continued success over the last three decades. Pressure of space prevents further listing of his accomplishments. But I have a suspicion that he would rank his superb production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1990 on a par with all those achievements mentioned above.

All at Reading School wish Ned and Heather health and happiness in the years to come.

J M Evans

Sport

Cricket: School 1st XI v OR XI – Saturday, 30 June 2012

This was one of the best of recent OR matches. A strong batting line-up encouraged OR captain Michael Carson to bat, on winning the toss, but the early bowling from the School was excellent and made batting difficult. Thus when the sixth wicket fell with only sixty-eight on the board, the game looked as if it might finish in the early afternoon. However Philip Alexander had stood firm as opener, and with help from Robert Cassie began to rebuild the innings.

The restrictions on the number of overs a school fast or medium fast bowler may bowl ended Simon Anderson's excellent spell, and perhaps the School thought that the hard work had been done. However, a full day game allows a batting side time to rebuild an innings and all the lower order were able to score runs. When Martin Fisher was the last man out, giving Anderson his fifth wicket, the ORs had reached 182.

This was still hardly intimidating, and Michael Carson took the bold decision of presenting the School's openers with his leg breaks immediately. The first ball of the innings saw last year's centurion, Stuart Parsons, caught at slip. Michael's brother, Steven, was able to rebuild the School innings, but just as they looked to be moving back into a winning position, the two spinners from last year's 1st XI began to bowl at a level which any school team would find daunting on a pitch which provided some turn. Govind Nair and Taha Butt bowled beautifully, and by six o'clock, the ORs had won the game and reclaimed the *Chris Kays Memorial Trophy*.

ORs: 182 all out (P Alexander 55, R Cassie 31, S Anderson 5-55)

School: 148 all out (S Carson 56, T Butt 3-26) **ORs** won by 34 runs.

School: P Bharadwaj; S Parsons; S Carson; J Singh; J Gemmill; A Davies; H Gannon; S Anderson; T Doughty; J Downes; C Wilson.

Old Redingensians: A Carson; J Walker; J Moore; P Alexander; M Fisher; M Carson; A Truslove; G Nair; J Berger-North; R Cassie; T Butt ESH



Rowing: ORs V The School - Saturday, 7 July 2012



Another highly enjoyable fixture on a pleasant if slightly damp day took place on the Thames above Caversham Bridge with Reading School winning the first race and the ORs the second, leaving honours even for the day. Phillip Rothbart, former Master at School, was once again on hand to fettle crews and boats. Afterwards, all enjoyed a barbecue at the School Boathouse with Steven Longstaff (S J Longstaff Master i/c Rowing at School) as head chef. Amongst staff present were Mr Ashley Robson, School Vice Principal, and the OR Council were represented by Prof Martin Parsons (President), Ken Brown (Vice President) and Chris Widdows (Membership Secretary). Once again, initial arrangements for the fixture were made by Ant Butler, also of the OR Council, and the continuing success of this event, now in its fourth year, owes much to his efforts. KCB



Top Row l to r:

*Mr Phillip Rothbart;
Tom Downes; James
Kennedy; Jack Roe*

Bottom Row l to r:

*Josh Taylor; Nikolai
Ciecierski-Holmes;
Anurag Aggarwal;
Ant Butler*

The crews were as follows

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | OR A IV | School IV |
| Bow | Tadgh Piotrowski | Jack Roe |
| 2 | Sam Molina (Caius CBC) | Josh Taylor |
| 3 | James Padmore (Leander) | Nicolai Ciecierski-Holmes |
| Stroke | James Audley (University of Bath BC) | Ken Sheppard |
| Cox | Ed Mills | Doug Boddington |
| | OR B IV | School IV |
| Bow | James Kennedy (New College BC) | Jack Roe |
| 2 | Tom Downes (Jesus CBC Oxon) | Josh Taylor |
| 3 | Alistair Hodgson (Merton CBC) | Nicolai Ciecierski-Holmes |
| Stroke | Anurag Aggarwal (Merton CBC) | Ken Sheppard |
| Cox | Ed Mills | Doug Boddington |

9th OR Festival of Rugby – Saturday, 8 September 2012

The tournament took place at School, once again, as luck seems to have it, on a warm and sunny day that was perfect for running rugby. Over 100 ORs attended to either play and/or spectate, which again shows the popularity of the event. This was aided by the fact that Bob Lewis (Mr R W Lewis Master at School 1976-10) had arranged a reunion of those on the 2002 Rugby tour of South Africa.

Six teams took part in the tournament with ORs from 2002-12 playing in two round-robin groups before semi-finals and then the final. The eventual winners were the team from 2002-04 (pictured centre below) who defeated the 2008 team to take the Jelf Group Challenge Shield. Once again the standard of rugby was high and the matches were played in good spirit. A special mention must be made of Alex Beckey (Mr A Beckey, Director of Sport at School) who refereed all of the matches. I am not sure if that was his original plan, given the warm weather conditions, but he stayed with the pace all afternoon!

Bob Lewis (pictured left below) kindly presented the John Vaughan Tankard to the player of the tournament, Julian Springer (2003 Team). Matthew Mills (2012 Team) was presented with the Clacy Cup for his contribution to the 1st XV during the 2011- 12 season (pictured right below with Alex Beckey).

We are grateful to Alex Beckey and Bob Lewis for arranging the competition; to Frances Greaney (Director of Development at School) for her help on the day and for the photographs below; to the School for allowing us to use the 1st XV pitch and for providing refreshments from the new Refectory; and finally to all ORs, their families and friends who attended the event.

We look forward to the 2013 tournament!

Alistair Wrenn



Redingensians RFC Ltd



During the year the OR Association assigned the lease at Old Bath Road to Redingensians RFC Ltd. and they have become our tenants in place of Redingensians Sports Club Ltd.

The Rugby Club have considerable ambitions off the field as well as on it, including plans to enlarge the pavilion which are currently in negotiation. The Chairman, A T (Andy) Lynch OR (1971-78), says: *'Our plan is to go up, stay up and move forward'*.

On the field the Club again started the season as one of the largest in the South of England with over 600 members, an impressive number of sides and a superb minis and midis section.

The 1st XV, who narrowly missed promotion last season, have not made the start to 2012/13 that they would have wished, but have turned in some strong performances and their position in National 3 Southwest (6th as this magazine goes to press) is expected to improve.

Finally, John Cook, former player and Club Captain, leading Committee man and policy maker, thirty eight years as Secretary of the Club, has stepped down. He remains actively involved in the Club he has served outstandingly.

KCB

OR Golfing Society Autumn Meeting – Friday, 12 October 2012

The autumn meeting was held at the Calcot Park Golf Club, Reading on a fine day. Twelve ORs negotiated an undulating course with several very testing holes. The prizes were once again presented by Rodney Huggins. **Nearest the pin** was a particularly close competition with three members (Steve Kerridge, Steve Johnston and Will Lunn) all within 1.5 m of one another. WEL

Winner of the Bucknell Cup: Richard Childs 41 points

Runner-up: Adrian Glenn 32 points

Tankard for the Longest Drive: Richard Childs

Nearest the Pin Plaque: Steve Kerridge

The Lunn Trophy (for the lowest stroke score): Rudolph Bissolotti
95 strokes

Prize for par score on short holes: Jack Holt



L to R: P E Falinski (1960-67); G W O Price (1948-56); S M Kerridge (1965-70); A A Glenn (1961-67); J Holt (1948-53); N A Hunt (1977-84); W E Lunn(1951-58); S J Johnston (1979-86); R Childs (1971-78); R A Bissolotti (1944-50); A Wrenn (1978-85); R P Huggins (1944-52)

All enquiries for the Spring meeting at Reading Golf Club should be made to Steve Johnston: see *Forthcoming Events* in this magazine for contact details.



Old School Tie (left) Silk £15

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

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



There has been mention in these pages before of the unflinching efforts of Major J M (John) Perry (1942-49) in support of Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental Welfare Society. To raise funds for the cause, at the age of 81 John entered, last summer, the Olympic Sports Challenge section described at www.goldchallenge.org meeting all the requirements in swimming, diving, dinghy and off-shore sailing. He is now seeking funds to go towards the study of meditation as an aid to relief from combat stress. Details may be found at www.justgiving.com/john-perry1. The website will remain open until at least the end of March should sympathetic ORs wish to help John meet his target.



Robert Shafto Hedley - FA Cup Finalist!



The first Headmaster at Erleigh Road was Dr Stokoe, who arrived in 1871 from Richmond School, Yorkshire, and brought a number of boarding pupils with him. Whilst that was not unusual in Victorian times, when a respected Headmaster moved to another School, it certainly represented on behalf of the boys' parents an endorsement of the Headmaster.

West Wing, the Headmaster's House, until School House (now South House) was built, held 30 boarders and amongst the boys from Richmond was Robert Shafto Hedley and his brother.

The main winter game at School when the Hedleys were there was Association Football. The brothers played in the XI, Robert from 1871 to 1873 when he left School for the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich. On 2nd August 1876 he became a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. He continued to play football, for the RMA and then for the Royal Engineers, at centre forward. He was described as *'a useful centre combining considerable speed and weight with no small amount of energy.'*

In 1878 Royal Engineers reached the FA Cup Final (with Hedley scoring two hat tricks in earlier rounds). He captained them at Kennington Oval where his team lost 3:1 to Wanderers (five times winners in the early days of the Cup) captained by Hon Arthur Kinnaird. Wanderers were competing in their third consecutive Final and faced a powerful Royal Engineers side. After five minutes Wanderers took the lead but in the 18th minute the Sappers equalised; ten minutes later they conceded an own goal and were

trailing 2:1 at half-time. In the second half Hedley had a goal disallowed for infringement of the off-side rule and shortly afterwards Wanderers scored their third.

Thereafter, Hedley was selected for, but unable to play in, England's match against Scotland in 1878 and again in 1879, when the match was postponed and he was unavailable on the re-arranged date. During 1878-9 he served as a member of the FA Committee.

Six years later all was over. Hedley had been posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and on 29 January, 1884, he drowned off Trincomalee when his boat drifted away from the rocky outcrop he landed upon. He tried to swim for the boat but failed to reach it and his body was found by a search party. He was just 27 years of age.

Postscript:

The Royal Engineers side in the 1878 Final was as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Goal Keeper | Lieut Lovick | Friend |
| Full Back | Lieut James | Cowan |
| Full Back | Lieut William | Morris |
| Half Back | Lieut Charles | Mayne |
| Half Back | Lieut Frederick | Heath |
| Forward | Lieut Charles | Haynes |
| Forward | Lieut Morgan | Lindsay |
| Forward | Lieut Robert | Hedley (Captain) |
| Forward | Lieut Francis | Bond |
| Forward | Lieut Horace | Barnet |



- Incidentally, the referee in that Cup Final conformed to popular myth. He was a Mr S Bastard from Upton Park....
- D R (David) Downs (1952-59) the official Historian of Reading Football Club advises that Robert Hedley also appeared in the Reading School team that provided the opposition for Reading FC's first ever fixture in 1872. The match, played at King's Meadow, resulted in a 0:0 draw. KCB

The Royal Berkshire Regiment



This series of articles has, so far, included the Regiment's historical background; ORs in both world wars; the careers of some individual OR Royal Berkshiremen; RSM Rollings BEM; the Regimental Museum at Salisbury, and has touched upon, here and there, the TA Battalion and National Service. Until this issue the British Army of the Rhine has not been mentioned. That is the focus of this article which draws upon the BAOR letter sent by 'The Royal Berkshire ORs' to the editor of the Reading School Magazine and which appeared in Vol XXII No 8 (September 1956). Who were those Old Redingensians, and what happened to them?

There were six former Reading School boys serving as commissioned officers with the Regiment at Goslar (50 miles south east of Hanover). The senior was Major D J (Denis) Savill (1934-38) who was in command. Denis is now in retirement in Chichester. He was a regular Army Officer (as was his brother the late G P (Peter) Savill (1934-39) then serving as Adjutant of the TA Battalion back in Reading). The Savills deserve a future article to themselves.

The other five were Second Lieutenants on National Service. All had been in the Corps at School under RSM Rollings BEM. Four of them had acted at School under the direction of 'Birdie' (C A Nightingale, Master at School 1920-60). This they did to great effect, also, in various dramatic productions at Goslar. All were examples of those who made the most of, enjoyed, and gained by their experience on National Service. Indeed, all subsequently joined the 4/6th TA Battalion of the Regiment. These Old Redingensians, in alphabetical order, were:

J R Cartwright (1943-54)



late of South House; School Prefect and sporting all-rounder. He was also Hon Sec. of the Debating Society and won the Boulting Brothers Drama Medal for his 1953 performance as Sir Toby Belch in 'Twelfth Night'. After National Service he joined C & A Ltd where he spent 32 years and was able to retire at the age of 53. Ray died on 26 October 2003 at the age of 68, leaving his widow Margot and son Nicholas. His younger brother is T L (Terry) Cartwright (1958-65).

J M F Chalmers (1950-54)



James Michael Findlay Chalmers (Mike) was another South Houser, and a noted Rugby player both for the School and Berkshire Colts. Indeed his sporting talents extended to swimming, gymnastics, rowing and boxing (winner of weight 1950) for Boarders in Cock House Competition. He had also gained a Debating Society 'Character' and appeared in both Dramatic and Operatic Society productions. He subsequently became a lieutenant in the regiment. He joined the Metropolitan Police,

played rugby for the Police 1st XV and spent 30 years with the Force. Mike is married to Maureen and they have two daughters, Monica and Sarah. In retirement he and Maureen live in Wreclesham near Farnham (both he and his twin were married to their respective spouses by Reverend Jack Newman, their former housemaster – in Mike's case at St Mary's, Ewell). Mike's twin brother is Ian Fyfe Chalmers (1950-54), a retired agronomist who lives in Little Weighton near Cottingham.

E E Hobday (1945-53)



Ted was an active member of West House and another debater and Operatic Society member. He subsequently became a Captain in the T A Battalion. His career was spent in the construction industry and since retirement he has built up a small residential portfolio. He and Ann have two children, Neil and Natalie, and live in Shipston-on-Stour.

D E H Moriarty (1943-54)



Denis was in West House also. He became Captain of School and left with an impressive valeté which included five years in the Debating Society (Hon Sec 1952) and a 'Character' for four of those

years; six years in the Dramatic Society (Boulting Brothers Drama Medal 1949 and 1952 Hon Sec 1952); seven years in the Operatic Society (Hon Sec 1953); Captain of School Elocution and much else. Denis graduated from St John's College, Oxford and became a producer with BBC TV. He was also Mayor of Henley, and stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Abingdon seat. Nowadays he is a lecturer and Arts Tour Director. Denis is a Past President of the OR Association. He and Jinnie live in West London. His brother is M J (Michael) Moriarty CB (1941-48).

C P Smallbone (1944-54)



Also in West House at School, Chris was a School Prefect and another prominent member of the Debating, Dramatic and Operatic Societies. He was also a marksman and went on to twice become the 4/6th Battalion Champion Shot. He became a captain with the Battalion in the TA. Chris spent his career with Milwards Ltd. A long time Board Member, he retired in 1993. Many readers will recall his vivid description in the School magazine of surviving the sinking of TSMS Lakonia in 1963. Nowadays he lives in Sherborne with his wife, Margaret. They have three children, Andrew, Timothy and Julia. **KCB**

THE RIFLES (BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE) MUSEUM

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

The Wardrobe
58 The Close
SALISBURY
SP1 2EX

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

The Legacy of Edgar Milward



Alfred Edgar Milward, was not an Old Redingensian but he was a staunch and generous supporter of Reading School. The purpose of this article is to examine if his benefactions were on a scale which ought to be remembered in the School Bidding Prayer.

He was born in Basingstoke in 1903, the youngest of four; shortly afterwards the family moved to Cheltenham. Edgar went to a boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare and then undertook five years training for the shoe trade, attending the Cordwainers' College, London, before gaining practical experience in shoemaking and in shoe retailing. In 1924 he went into his family's well known business Milward & Sons Ltd, which had been founded in 1857 by Edgar's grandfather. When his own father became Chairman and Managing Director, in 1913, the family moved to Reading.

The firm had their Head Office at 10 Church Street, Reading, which had probably been an 18th century merchant's house. The premises were soon extended to include a warehouse, with garaging nearby. Many Reading School boys found holiday work there. One example is C J (Chris) Palmer (1950-58) who was given work whilst waiting to

go to Trinity College, Dublin. After a few weeks he left for more money as a bus conductor - but he failed the medical and asked Edgar for his job back! Edgar not only gave it back to him but increased his wages! Some took permanent employment. J S (John) Milward MBE (1942-47), Edgar's nephew, worked for the firm until 1994. He became a Director and then Chairman. On leaving he devoted four days a week for four years to the task of Admin Secretary at *Interserv*, the UK Christian Mission Agency. Like his Uncle Edgar, and others of his family, John was strongly motivated by Christian and humanitarian principles. C P (Chris) Smallbone (1944-54) followed the pattern of Chris Palmer; he took employment, left for perceived greener pastures, asked for his job back, got it, and made his career with the company; he became a senior Director, retiring in 1993. (By that time the company had 86 branches with a turnover of £35 million.)

D K (Douglas) Smith (1931-36) also made his career with the firm and indeed when his father, Stanley Smith, retired from the Reading Branch in the late 1950s he succeeded him as manager there, moving from Southampton branch (which Doug had both opened and managed). There were four Smith brothers at Reading School and another of them, G S (Gordon) Smith (1937-40) also made his career with the firm.

Dr A J (Adrian) Ruddle (1957-65) calls to mind a memory many ORs will share: Edgar's erratic but somehow majestic progress in his favoured Rover, usually in the middle of what were then less crowded roads. *'A gentle man who cared greatly about others'*.

Edgar ('Mr Edgar' to so many who worked for Milwards over the years) was a Director from 1924 and, after his father's death, was Joint Managing Director with his brother Stanley (who was Chairman of the Company) from 1934 to 1968. Both brothers retired in 1968 from executive responsibility, but remained on the Board until 1981, the year that Stanley died and Edgar became Honorary President.

He was a bachelor and lived with his sister 'Poppy' in a large and attractive house – with a tennis court known to many Reading School boys - *Southfields*, right, in Warwick Road. Poppy's motto was: *'Give While You Live'* and Edgar certainly adhered to the same creed, always finding time to help others and becoming well known for his philanthropy. Indeed the *Edgar Milward Charity* flourishes to this day. Edgar Milward's concerns for and charitable actions towards the elderly were considerable also, but this article is concerned with his support for the young, reflected in many of his special interests which included:



- **Reading YMCA** (he served as Chairman and then President)
- **Reading University** (as a member of Council and Chairman of the Friends of Reading University)
- **The National Children's Home** (Chairman of Alresford Branch)
- **Gideons International** (Founder Member of Reading Branch, member of East Berkshire Branch)
- **Reading Youth for Christ Movement** (Treasurer)
- **Slavic Gospel Association** (British Branch)

Edgar was particularly well known as a leader of Reading Boys Crusader Class – through which many Reading School boys passed – which met for twelve and a half years in his own home on Sunday afternoon (with an average attendance of 40). He was a Governor of local schools and *'took a close personal interest in the careers and wellbeing of many young people and sought to encourage them on an individual basis'* (a quotation from the firm's tribute to Edgar which appeared in their Company magazine *The Message* in the Winter 1987 issue). Edgar worshipped at Greyfriars Church for 71 years (singing in the choir for 50 years).



*A typical gathering of the Reading School Crusader Class at Southfields
Edgar Milward seated centre right*

For his services to the community Edgar Milward was appointed OBE in 1969, and in 1984 attained the highest honour that Reading can bestow on its citizens when he was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Reading. On that occasion Councillor Charles Sage OR (C F Sage 1923-31) described him as *'One of nature's true and special gentlemen who is loved by all who know him'*.

One supreme example of his Christian belief was given in 1963. He forgave 10 of his male employees who admitted stealing or receiving stolen shoes in a criminal enterprise. Edgar Milward told Reading Magistrates *'I will take them all back and allow them to continue their jobs'*. *'.....after very careful thought we have decided to give each man another chance'*.

He first became interested in Reading School in the 1930s. What form did his involvement take? Certainly the Reading School Crusader Class; certainly also through practical help to individuals and encouragement to them, in particular their sporting and musical activities. Indeed, this found practical expression *'in a stream of unsolicited gifts to the School in money and kind'*. (Obituary notice: *Reading School Magazine* January, 1987).

Peter Coombs (1939-47) a former Captain of School, admits that he rarely throws anything away. He has unearthed no less than 43 letters from Edgar all expressing interest, offering advice to him and demonstrating a great knowledge of the School. As Peter says, if one multiplies that by the numbers that Edgar, an inveterate letter writer (with fine handwriting), must have sent to many Reading School boys (and others) it becomes truly remarkable.

Peter also provided an example of Edgar's generosity: when Peter was a young vicar, circa 1966, Edgar arrived unannounced on his doorstep at his Nottingham rectory and on departing left an envelope containing £50. He explained he was using his summer holiday that year to travel the length and breadth of the country looking up old friends and leaving them *'a little something'*.

Chris Smallbone, mentioned above, gave another example. Needing to raise money for a British Schools Exploring Society trip, he wrote to Milwards, amongst others. He (and two others who had done the same) promptly received cheques for £50 each from Edgar Milward. Chris was the only one of the three who wrote personally to thank Edgar. Upon receipt of Chris's letter Edgar then sent him a further £50!

D C (Derek) Patience (1954-61) who attended Christian Young Crusaders at the Methodist Church in Friar Street (another group in which Edgar involved himself) remembers his parents – who had five children – having regretfully to tell him that he could not go on a visit to Southampton which was to include a boat trip and a sight of the liner *Queen Elizabeth*. Edgar phoned his father and said that he would pay for the trip personally; he became a firm friend of the family. Derek was yet another who had holiday jobs in Church Street. *'A wonderful man whom I admired greatly'*.

Many ORs have similar stories; some learned that when they passed the 11+ Edgar had given money so that their parents were able to meet costs – uniform, games kit, etc which might otherwise be insurmountable and meant that they could not take up their place at School.

For the Gideons, Edgar attended the annual distribution of the New Testament to Reading School new boys, in the Chapel. He regularly attended Speech Day (in 1984 as guest of honour) and many other Reading School functions and served on the School's Board of Governors for some years.

Edgar Milward was very interested in sport, which he discussed knowledgeably. (He was a life member of Reading Football Club; regularly supported the reserves at Elm Park; and had been an active member of Milwards Sports Club in pre-war days). In 1946 he established the Rugby lunches for Reading School and shortly after the cricket lunches, both of which settled eventually at Welsteeds Restaurant (where Debenhams now is in Broad Street) and were veritable feasts that continued for decades.

There is no known list of Edgar's financial contributions to Reading School but they were many and considerable and some instances follow.



Charles Edward Kemp, distinguished Head Master of Reading School (1939-66), *pictured left*, recounted finding on his breakfast table in 1964 'a comfortable, plump looking envelope' which contained 'a neat wad of cheques, four of £500 each and three of £100'. It was Edgar's way of celebrating Mr Kemp's 25 year's Headship. Edgar had provided:

- £500 to the Music Society
- £500 to the Boat Club
- £100 to the Scouts
- £100 to the OR Rugby Club
- £100 to the OR Cricket Club

The remaining £1,000 was invested, after consultation with Edgar, to create *The Milward Fund* for specific objectives. R G (Richard) Griffiths (1957-64), then Captain of Rowing, recalls that the Boat Club donation was subsequently generously increased to enable the outright purchase of a much needed new

shell eight (which was named, appropriately, the *A E Milward*).

Edgar purchased the Steinway grand piano that was until recently used in Big School. For a number of years he sponsored a boy on the annual British School's Expedition to the Arctic. In 1979 he wrote a cheque to cover the shortfall on the Canadian Cricket Tour Fund. A month or two before his death he donated £1,000 for general funds.

Edgar Milward died peacefully in his sleep on 28 August 1986. The obituary in the *Reading School Magazine* recorded that the School had lost one of its most generous friends and one '*with a genuine altruism that shunned all publicity*' and '*his Christian commitment was total and many sided*'. The Bishop of Doncaster, who had been in Edgar's Bible class, gave the address at the funeral service and emphasised the depth and simplicity of Edgar's faith, and said that many had reason to thank God for him. For the many services he gave Reading School Edgar Milward received a very rare distinction - honorary membership of the Old Redingensians Club. Does Reading School have reason to remember his beneficence and kindness in the School Bidding Prayer? I submit that it does.

KCB

We are grateful to all of those mentioned in this article and others who wrote in. In particular we are indebted to Mrs Jill Lihou (née Milward), to John Milward, Peter Coombs and Chris Smallbone all of whom have been extremely helpful; also to John Missenden, our source for the photograph of Southfields. The house, alas, is no more and the Milwards shoe business, itself, has been consigned to history. The advertisement below will no doubt bring back many memories for readers.

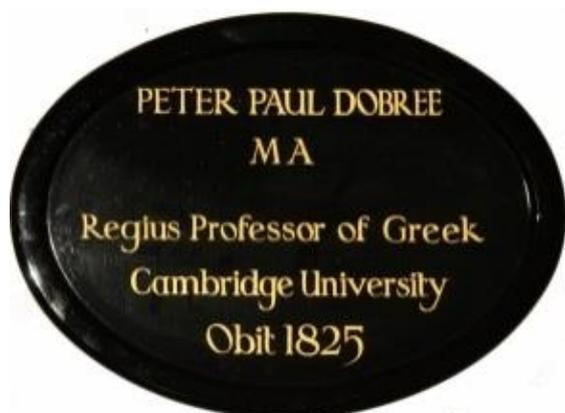
MILWARDS
SHOES
— the name that fits

Tea Trays Old and New

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

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

Tracking the Tea Trays No 22: Peter Paul Dobree



It is fitting that the fine bust and tablet to Dobree on the wall of Trinity College, Cambridge's ante chapel is close by that of Richard Porson, for Dobree was a true heir to his Master in the first rank of English Textual scholars - perhaps inferior only to Porson in his field. He was born in 1782 in Guernsey and educated under Dr Valpy at Reading School. In 1806 he was elected a Fellow of Trinity and in 1823 became Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge. Only two years later he died prematurely after a short illness. His character was such that men wept at his funeral. Dobree left 1000 books to Trinity College Library and his own scholarship is commemorated in *Adversaria*, edited by his successor as Professor of Greek, James Scholefield. There is an interesting 1866 portrait of Dobree, by Paul Gauci in the Guernsey Museums and Galleries Collection.

Tracking the Tea Trays No 23: Major Sir Arthur Salisbury Lawrance

One of four brothers at Reading School (see the panelling in the School ante chapel) Lawrance's distinguished career was such that a leading Defence Review recently suggested that who was needed in the present Afghanistan difficulties was not so much a *Lawrence of Arabia* figure as a *Lawrance of Somaliland* (where he was an extremely successful Governor and Commander-in-Chief from 1935 to 1939). He had served in the Boer War in the Imperial Yeomanry, in Somaliland and was wounded in the First World War. His impressive array of medals are displayed in the School Armoury. He was part of the Government of Somaliland from 1926; British Red Cross Representative in Lisbon 1941-42 and a Home Guard Intelligence Officer from 1943-45. Lawrance was President of the Old Redingensians Club in 1959.



The Wilkins of Reading School

More than a century ago, the Wilkins family of rural Oxfordshire began to gravitate towards Reading, some quite independently of others. Five of them were at Reading School between 1917 and 1955:

- **Geoffrey Rowland Edward Wilkins (1917-21) West House** born 17 Feb 1905
- **Peter Wilkins (1936-43) West House** born 26 Apr 1925
- **Geoffrey Harford Wilkins (1946-52) South House** born 13 May 1934
- **David Arthur Wilkins (1945-55) East House** born 01 Apr 1936
- **Michael John Wilkins (1946-52) East Wing/South House** born 09 Apr 1936



G R E Wilkins, father of GH and MJ, was in the Officer Training Corps at School. He became a Railway Signals and Telegraph Engineer and in 1935 moved from GWR to the Cuban State Railways. By the outbreak of World War II he was working in Malaya.

He tried to enlist before the fall of Singapore, but was told that his role in keeping the on-island rail lines going was much more vital. He was taken prisoner and spent the duration of the war incarcerated - bad enough; but had he been in uniform he might well, of course, have been sent to work on the Burma railway, with all that that entailed.

His sons and their mother, who was Canadian, were luckier. Sometime after the Japanese invasion they were evacuated by darkened train down the peninsula from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore. It was New Year's Eve and Geoff (Junior) remembers it as

'a very exciting midnight trip'. Some weeks later, just before Singapore's capitulation in February 1942, the three of them were able to leave on one of the last ships to get away successfully (ironically it was named *Empress of Japan*). Geoff remembers that *'she was loaded to the gunnels with women and children, many having to doss down on deck'* After various peregrinations via Ceylon and South Africa, they eventually reached the United Kingdom, settling down with family in Reading.

The last year of the war was spent in Canada but, with the arrival of peace, Geoff, Mike and their mother, returned to Britain to join their father, who had been invalided home. Their parents returned to Malaya in 1946 and the two boys were enrolled in Junior School, both becoming boarders. By the early 50s their parents were in Canada and a third son was born to them there. G R E Wilkins (*pictured right c1949*) worked for The Malayan Railway until retirement



P Wilkins, an only child, was a cousin to GH and MJ being the son of GRE's brother. When he left School in February 1943 he was a monitor, on his House Committee, a Sergeant in the JTC and a School Cricket Colour: The *Characters* he received for play in the 1st XIs of 1941 and 1942 reveal that he was a very promising batsman and a safe fielder. He was also a good all-rounder for his House and a member of several School Societies.

On leaving, he was quickly in the Army as a Royal Engineer and by 1946 was a Staff Captain attached to the Nigerian Army. Here the trail goes cold and if any reader has knowledge of Peter's subsequent life we would be most interested to hear about it.



G H Wilkins had a distinguished School career; he was an enthusiastic sportsman and was capped for England Schools Colts Rugby XV. In his last year he was Captain of School, Captain of Boarders and Captain of South House. He also played for the 1st XI, was a School Athletic Colour, Captain of School Elocution, a Sergeant in the CCF and gained his Opera Society Initials. The *Characters* he received for play in the 1st XV's of 1950 and 1951 dwell on his exceptional turn of speed, his safe pair of hands, and his very sound defence which was coupled with an ability to *'tackle viciously'*

In 1952 he (and his brother Mike) returned to Canada and he gained his first degree at the University of British Columbia. Thereafter, he taught in the public school system, became Principal of several schools in greater Vancouver and ended his career as Superintendent of Instruction for a local Education Authority with forty schools under his charge. He now lives in North Vancouver and is active as Chairman of a National Renewal Group in the United Church of Canada.



D A Wilkins second cousin of GH and MJ, was at the Collegiate School when the bombs fell on central Reading in 1943 (see the Autumn 2008 edition of *The Old Redingensian*). David confirmed (see the same edition) that *Bambi* was showing at the time; he was actually inside the Central Cinema and is still complaining that he never did see the end of the film. In his ten years at School David became Captain of Tennis, a School Prefect, a L/Sgt. in the CCF, Hon. Sec. of School Soccer (1st XI 1952-55) and sang in the School Choir. On leaving, he did his National Service in the Royal Navy and much of this time was spent on a Russian course at the Joint Services School for Linguists, where he found himself in the company of several other ORs.

He then took up his Manchester University place, gained his degree and commenced thirty five years at Reading University as a Lecturer and, eventually, Professor of Applied Linguistics. Pressure of time meant squash instead of tennis for a long time but later, at Reading, he did return to the game.



M J Wilkins, GH's brother, was a considerable sportsman as well, and already in the 1st XI when he returned to Canada aged 16. He had also represented the School at Chess. At North Vancouver High School he won the Canadian Legion Trophy for the highest points scorer at the inter-high track meet at Brockton Oval and his Principal said that Michael was making '*an enormous contribution*' to the life of the school.

Mike, like his brother, gained his first degree at the University of British Columbia. He graduated in forestry and served in a number of forest districts across the Province, retiring as Executive Director of Operations for the British Columbia Forest Service. He lives in Victoria on Vancouver Island.

The five Wilkins boys above spent an accumulated total of thirty seven years at Reading School. Fifty years on, despite marriage, children and grandchildren, there have not yet been any further representatives of the family at Reading School.

KCB

Note. This piece has been expanded from a most interesting but extremely self-effacing communication from Geoffrey and David Wilkins to the Editors. We thank them for providing a basis to the above and show below Geoffrey on the left and David on the right during a visit made by David and his wife to Vancouver in 2003. – Ed



Sir Hugh Allen

By Philip Mortimer



Kendrick Boys School (pictured left) existed only from 1877 until 1916 when it was absorbed into Reading School. It produced some fine men and some notable men: none more so than Sir Hugh Allen on whom Philip Mortimer writes below. Allen received many honours, amongst them a Knighthood in 1920, GCVO in 1935, his Doctorate at Oxford, and Honorary Doctorates at Cambridge (1925), Reading (1938), Sheffield (1926), and Berlin. He was an Honorary Fellow of Christ College, Cambridge (1926) and Master of the Worshipful Company of Musicians (1937). – Ed.

Hugh Percy Allen was born in Reading in 1869, one of six sons of a manager at Huntley & Palmers who married into the Quaker family of Stevens. (Until the 1960s, Huntley, Bourne & Stevens' noisy factory on London Street, Reading, pressed out the tins that H & Ps biscuits were packed in).

Allen showed early aptitude as a pianist and at the age of eight was taken under the wing of Dr F J Read, the young organist at Christchurch, Reading. By eleven Allen was himself a local church organist, first at St Saviours, Coley, and soon after also at St Michael's, Tilehurst: then at had recently been the Rector.

The skill of training choirs instilled into Allen by Read in Reading and later when he was organist at Chichester and Ely Cathedrals endowed Hugh Allen with a gift that determined that boy's future. (*Allen was also Read's organ pupil and moved with him to Chichester – Ed.*) During a long and active career Allen took music degrees at both Oxford and Cambridge, taught widely, directed the Bach Choir, raised the choir of New College Chapel to pre-eminence and supported music festivals and school and university departments. In particular he promoted the music department at Reading University; he would have despaired at the recent decision to close it. Allen revived interest in Bach's music which the Romantic Movement had neglected, and popularised, the music of Brahms and Wagner. He was also a friend and admirer of the composer Hubert Parry whom he succeeded as Director of the Royal College of Music.



Unlike Parry, Allen composed little, though he did write three pieces for the Cheltenham Ladies College hymnal. His unique contribution was, rather, to choral singing which in England reached a zenith in the Edwardian years. He was *'the whetstone that makes iron sharp though it does not itself cut'* and he was said to take more pleasure in training a choir to achieve its potential than in the absolute quality of any final performance. His influence as a teacher has perhaps not yet been lost even if he is largely forgotten.

Allen's aura was formidable. When appointed as organist at New College, he was described as *'a brilliant young man, bound to make his mark....restless, ambitious, wilful'*. At the Petersfield Festival a singer noted that *'his astonishing vitality, his humour, and his overpowering personality held us spellbound'*. Professor E J Dent, more critical, wrote in his diary that Allen was *'very uncouth in manner and appearance, he was always badly dressed and had a large and ferocious-looking moustache'*.

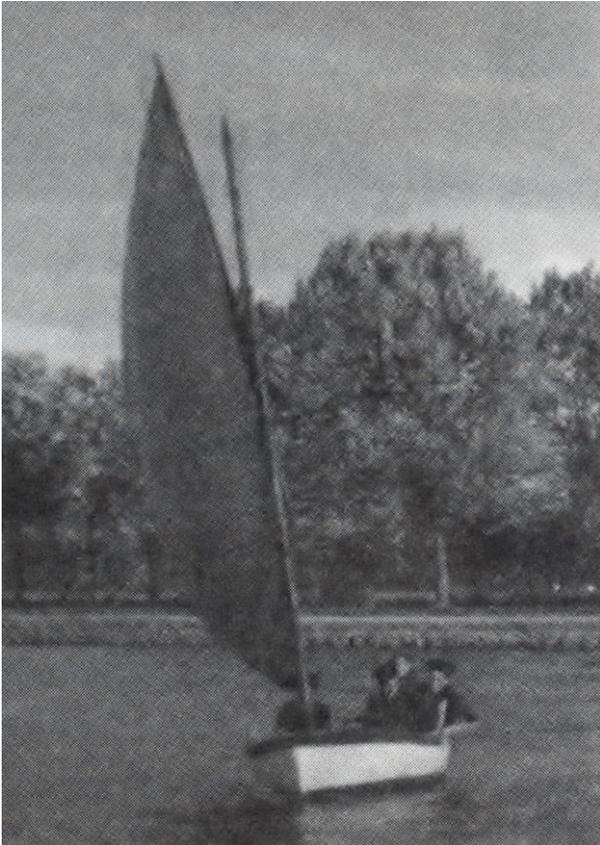
There was truth in this: Allen's hobby was sailing, his language was often nautical and his preferred garb for conducting was blue serge overalls. Allen's last years were spent in Oxford where in February 1946, he was knocked down by a motor cyclist, an accident from which he did not recover. PPM

Above is the well-known pencil sketch of St Hugh Allen by John Singer Sargeant; on the facing page a fine photographic image of Sir Hugh in his younger years (with due acknowledgments). The substance of Philip Mortimer's article is taken from the biography of Sir Hugh Allen that was written by Cyril Bailey and published by Oxford University Press in 1948. There will be more about Sir Hugh Allen in the Spring 2013 issue in an article by Andrew Bohman (1944-51) recalling a number of Reading musicians and their links through School and University. – Ed.



The Last Voyage of the 'Viva'

Of the many Reading School boys who have been members of the 1st Reading Sea Scout Group over the years, a group of no less than ten, all contemporaries, were reunited in June (see *image overleaf*). Of the ten pictured, Brian Cullingford (then aged 16) and Jack Goddard (15) were involved in a tragic incident whilst 1st Reading were in camp at Thorns Beach, Beaulieu in 1946.



The scouts were settling in at the post-war summer camp on the Solent, when their leader Mr F W (Frank) Jennings ('Skipper') asked if anyone would sail with him to visit other campers on the Isle of Wight. Teenagers Jack Goddard, Brian Cullingford, and Geoff Wilding (not an OR) volunteered, and the four set off across the Solent in the troop's dinghy *Viva* (pictured).

Reaching the other camp near Cowes without incident, they were welcomed by the youngsters and their leaders, and had enjoyed a pleasant hour or so when it was noticed that the weather was deteriorating rapidly. After hurried farewells they boarded *Viva* and headed to sea on a westerly course. Skipper Jennings explained that due to a strengthening wind from the West he would steer towards Lymington and, when they were about two thirds of the way across, turn about and sail downwind towards Thorns Beach. However, when Skipper turned *Viva* about, the mainsail gybed and the heavy boom swung across violently. Jack Goddard had to duck rapidly to avoid injury but Skipper in the stern was struck on the head. As a result Frank held on to the sheet disastrously, and *Viva* capsized flinging all four crew into the sea.

The three scouts swam to grab the semi-submerged dinghy, and Geoff and Jack attempted to right the boat by putting their weight on the centre-board. Brian meanwhile had noticed that Mr Jennings, by now well away from the boat, seemed to be in difficulties and was floundering, with his arms flailing violently. Brian swam to help him, but on approaching was immediately grasped around the shoulders and neck by

Skipper. Because of the great difference in size and weight the teenager was dragged well under the surface. Fortunately Brian was a qualified lifesaver (holding the RLSS Bronze Medallion and Award of Merit) and instinctively applied the correct release and rescue procedures by which he was able to free himself, get both of them to the surface, turn his now inert scoutmaster onto his back, and tow him towards the others.

The weather was now extremely blustery and, with visibility very poor, rescue looked highly unlikely. The three boys had a 'council of war' and Cullingford offered to attempt to swim to the shore to get help. Wilding and Goddard promised they would do their very best to keep Skipper above the waves.

After setting off strongly towards the Hampshire coast, Cullingford (pictured right) soon found that, with the increasingly rough weather, and no landmarks visible, it became impossible to keep on course. He swam on for what seemed like hours when, almost at the point of total exhaustion and approximately three miles from *Viva*, he was sighted and picked up by the crew of a ferry on its way to Yarmouth on the island's western tip. After a tot of brandy Brian was able to speak, and pleaded with the officers to radio other craft to find and rescue his friends.

Meanwhile, despite exhaustion and cold Geoff Wilding and Jack Goddard had continued to struggle manfully to keep Skipper above water, until miraculously an observant passenger on another ferry, spotted them. The crew secured them on board and took them to Lymington. The three boys were reunited in hospital, and kept in overnight for recuperation and tests. They then learned that, despite their combined efforts, sadly Skipper Frank Jennings had not survived.

Reading School had a further involvement in that camp at Thorns Beach. As help was needed to continue it in the absence of the Skipper, an appeal was made to Captain F H C Redington ('Bonk' – Master at School 1922 – 59) commanding the Reading School Corps camp at Sandhurst; he agreed to release two senior Sea Scouts, Peter Short and John Ashton, to help at Thorns Beach.



Later Brian Cullingford was awarded the Scouts Silver Cross for Gallantry, and Jack Goddard and Geoff Wilding each received the Gilt Cross (the ceremony is pictured right, the crosses below).

The experience did not deter Brian from pursuing a career at sea as the picture of him in uniform below shows! His life after he came ashore has been a most interesting one – worthy of an article of its own.....



We are most grateful to B A (Brian) Cullingford (1941-47) and to D J (John) Ashton (1940-47) for their recollections of the above. The story is also told in 'Three Flag Hoist' the Reading Sea Scouts history written by V T (Vic) Rolfe (1943-45), whose obituary appeared in the Autumn '11 issue of this magazine – Ed.

1st Reading Sea Scouts



The group pictured (referred to on page 36) who gathered in June at the opening of the Sea Scouts new Waterside Activity Centre (left), off The Warren, included ten ORs:

D J (John) Ashton (1940-47); G F R (George) Barnett (1941-47); B A (Brian) Cullingford (1941-47); G C (Geoff) Freer (1942-47); J (Jack) Goddard (1941-48); K S (Ken) Mills (1942-47) B L (Brian) Scotford (1945-50); J E (John) Scotford (1950-55); P A (Peter) Short (1939-47); R B (Robin) Willes (1943-47)



The Archive

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

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



As promised in the Spring 2012 issue, here are images of *The Kirkwood Room* the excellent new Archive facility in the East Cloister at School. The displays form a background to what is a study/reception room. Presently there remains to be installed a frieze depicting the School buildings, which is planned to decorate the upper wall and projection equipment/screen for joint use with the School. Eventually it is hoped to create the role of ‘Student Curator’ to enable pupil participation in the archival holdings. Meanwhile, the Archivist is busy compiling an index which will eventually go online. An official opening of *The Kirkwood Room* is planned (date to be set) and will be duly reported in *The Old Redingensian*.



The final 70 years of the School magazine have now been scanned through by R C (Bob) Coombs (1953-60) to whom we repeat the grateful thanks expressed in the last issue for undertaking this major task. He is now starting on earlier decades. Meanwhile, Chris Widdows is preparing the completed work for uploading onto the archive pages of *OR Connect*, which are at the moment in nascent form only. A link to the magazines' contents has been devised which should effectively provide an index for all searches and will eventually cross reference to separate archival material on the site.

The School may claim a remote connection with T E Lawrence – Lawrence of Arabia – who was born on 16 August 1888 at Tremadog, Wales to Sir Thomas Chapman and Sarah Junner who lived together as 'Mr and Mrs Lawrence'. The School 'connection' comes through Sir Thomas's own mother who was born Martha Vansittart, part of that Shottesbrooke family which sent no less than 15 members, over three generations, to Reading School. Many of them gained distinction (and no one more than Henry Vansittart, the friend of Clive, who became Governor of Bengal. Joseph Wells tells us in his pamphlet '*Famous men of Reading School*' that Vansittart was a pupil at School under Haviland J Hiley.) In 1896 Sir Thomas moved his family to Oxford and TEL attended Oxford High School. (Had Sir Thomas decided to have the removal van unloaded in Reading instead....well, who knows?)

We thank the following for additions to the Archive (and also thank those who kindly sent copies of the Spring 2011 issue of The Old Redingensian to bolster dwindling stocks)

| | |
|--|--|
| A B E Brown (1926-35) | For back issue of <i>The Old Redingensian</i> |
| P F Cartwright (1943-48) | Form prize(IVB) 1946: ' <i>Everyday Things and Their Story</i> ' |
| Revd D J B Fostekew (1975-82) | For registration certificate: 834751 – OR Club tie |
| G A Ireland (Staff 1980-01) | For Hermann Lindars' (1909-16) copy of Bagsters 'Gem' edition of <i>Haydn's Creation</i> |
| Professor A A Johnson (1940-49) | For two items signed by F C Griffin (Staff 1945-70) – See <i>The Archive</i> in the next issue |
| M H W Maule (1956-59) | For back issues of <i>The Old Redingensian</i> , School magazines and a large folder of ephemera |
| Dr D J B Potter (1942-52) | For the splendid gift of ' <i>Records of the Borough of Reading</i> ' (Guilding) published in four volumes 1892-96 |
| C P Smallbone (1944-54) | For a DVD of the 1948 Boulting Brothers film <i>The Guinea Pig</i> * |
| S R Stafford (1951-53) | For School magazines of his era |
| J R Stevens (1952-59) | For the First XV colours cap awarded to his father, L H Stevens (1916-17), for play in the 1916-17 season |
| Mrs B E Taylor (Staff 1994-10) | For a copy of ' <i>The History of Reading School</i> ' (Naxton)** |
| Mr and Mrs R Tunnock | For a superbly produced DVD of the life of Charles Raymond Tice (1932-38), Cherry Tunnock's father |
| Dr B J Vieri (1951-58) | For back issue of <i>The Old Redingensian</i> |
| I LI Watts (1936-44) | For School magazines and School lists |

* The gift of *The Guinea Pig* is delightful and readers of a certain age will know why. Whilst the buildings of Sherborne School were utilised in the film, the splendid singing on the soundtrack was recorded at Reading School, using Reading School boys – amongst the piping trebles was Chris Smallbone, the donor of the DVD – and, somewhat felicitously, he and Margaret nowadays live in Sherborne. John and Roy Boulting are already commemorated on a 'tea tray' in Big School and the Archivist intends to obtain more films from their *oeuvre* for posterity.

** **NB copies always needed.**

We are grateful for all the above and hope it inspires others to make contact if they have material for the archive, either to gift or to have scanned and returned. **Items should be sent to K C Brown, Archivist, Pearmains, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 327 9917 or by email at kcbrown11@aol.com.**

Commentary The Old Redingensian Spring 2012

Matt Mattingley's obituary notice appears on page 43. The Venerable Peter Coombs OR (1939-47), another former Captain of School, represented the OR Association at the funeral in Chichester on 5 January 2012. The co-editors of this magazine were present at the subsequent memorial service in Rogate on 24 January 2012.

The numerous tributes sent by Matt's friends and colleagues paint a charming and touching picture of a life well spent. Some of those sent in by ORs are quoted below. Certainly Matt's Reading School career was remarkable:

- He was a **natural leader**: becoming Captain of his House (East) and Captain of School.
- He was an **outstanding sportsman**, gaining his School Colours in Rugby, Athletics and Swimming and becoming Heavyweight Boxing Champion.
- He was a major contributor to the **cultural side** of the School, being School Chess Champion and a leading member of the Debating, Dramatic, Operatic, Music and other Societies.
- He was a **good administrator** serving on the major School committees: chapel, tuckshop, magazine, and library.

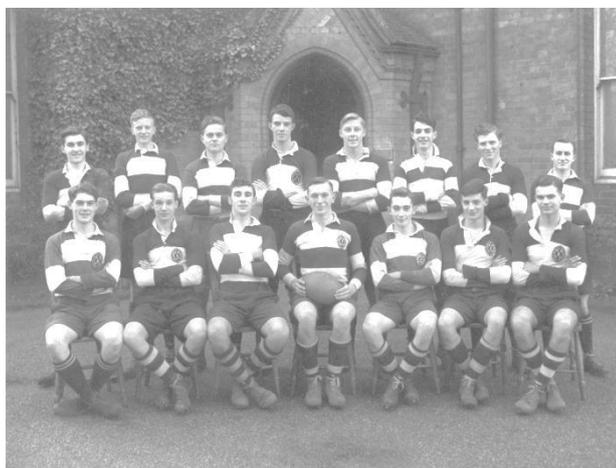
I LI (Ivor) Watts (1936-44) now living in Devon, was Matt's oldest friend and although they had not met for many years they had always kept in touch. He writes - *We met in the last year at Oxford Road Elementary School, Reading in 1935 and both won scholarships to Reading School the following year. In almost all matters he was always exactly one step ahead of me (except in sport where he excelled whereas I was a rabbit). I was Vice Captain when he was Captain and we shared his study. I succeeded him as secretary of the debating society, of which we were both vocal members, and we were both very active in the operatic and dramatic societies. My parents were very fond of Matt; he visited us often and he and I would reduce my mother to helpless laughter with spoof ballet. We shared, indeed, a rather outre sense of humour; one of our amusements was the invention of unlikely societies, one of his being a Society for the Prevention of Goats. He was later Best Man at my wedding and our friendship has lasted for 76 years - a long time!*

D G (Derek) Thomerson (1940-47) was also a contemporary of Matt's at Reading School. *We both performed in several plays and Gilbert and Sullivan operas together. When he left School he served in the Navy and was on several Arctic crossings to Russia. In 1947 the two of us cycled from Reading to York in 3 days for a camping holiday; of course in those days there was hardly any traffic on the roads. Whilst he was at university my parents became very close to him and were proud of him when he became a master at Downside and played rugger for Bath. I visited Matt and Catharine several times when they lived at The Round House and went to a school performance of The Importance of Being Earnest directed by Catharine. We had performed the same play at School when Matt played the part of Earnest and I was Gwendolyn. Happy days!*

T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50) *Denis Mattingley was Captain of the School in 1943 and he assembled us new boys and told us what was expected of us, including the edict always to raise our caps to prefects. After a day or two his orders were quietly forgotten, but not, apparently, in the staff common room – Sid Taylor (French master - Ed) asked us one day with a twinkle in his eye, if the edict still applied. "Of course!" we thundered. When he was in the Navy he visited the School one day and in his full naval officers uniform took part in the usual frantic game of football at break in the Quad. He was unstoppable, kicking the battered tennis ball so hard he intimidated us. His time at Reading University was memorable. He was scholar, rugby player, actor, singer and charismatic leader: wherever he went he was followed by a loyal group. He was an OR of whom the School could be proud. (D W Mattingley, by then an OR, is pictured right as Shadbolt in the 1948 School production of *The Yeomen of The Guard* – Ed)*



D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) *I write of affection for a really legendary and important person in the history of Reading School during our lifetime. I remember him well (although I was ten years younger), as a towering figure not only on the rugby field (where he excelled) but also as a very impressive, yet approachable, benign yet authoritative, Captain of School. Eleven years later I was to follow him in this role and indeed we both served as Presidents of the Old Redingensian Association in more recent years. He had, too, an enviable reputation on the School stage as a good actor with a resonant voice of some ambition - in fact it was here that I first encountered him when we appeared together in productions of Ruddigore and Iolanthe - he a fine Victorian figure and I, alas, as a piping treble! His academic distinction at School and at Reading University passed me by due to my youth, and I knew little of his career until much later, but all the instincts and vibes he generated indicated that he was ideally suited to the life of a dedicated schoolmaster, loyal to the school and devoted to his pupils. His many talents combined with his commitment would have made him an admirable master of his profession and I can see him now as a kindly, wholly sympathetic, encouraging exemplar in his care and guidance of the young. His long and loyal service at Seaford College is indicative of an ideal member of staff to whom generations of colleagues and pupils must have been both admiring and eternally grateful. Well done and thank you I hear them say! I salute him.*



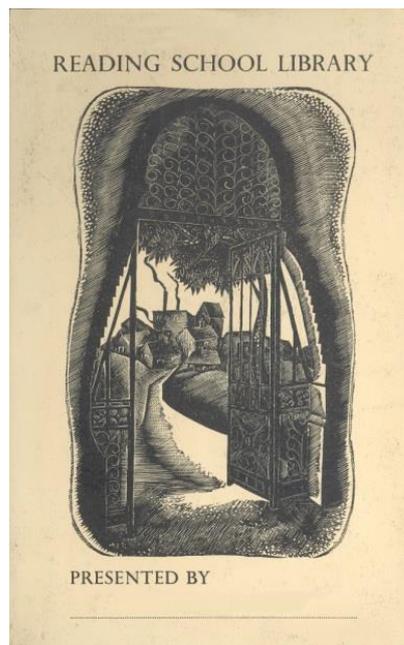
J A (Jack) Loeb (1940-43) wrote expressing deep condolences and sent the photograph, below left, of the 1st XV of 1942-43 in which both he and Matt played. (*The following year Matt captained the XV – Ed*)

Back row l to r: Ware K W; Goodman J R; J A Loeb; Munday P R; Hudspeth W M L; Johnson A J; Oxlade J E;

Front row l to r: J G Burrows; E A Martin; D W Mattingley; J M Jones (Capt); J G Gutch; R R Rogers; T B Clarke

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

Here is a bookplate once used in the Library at School. What does it portray? The gate is from the Cloisters with beyond, not the School Field, but a smoky urban scene perhaps representing the grim realities of the workplace after the comparative idyll of a schoolboy's life (almost a theme for an Olympic ceremony?!).



Mike Oakley - An Appreciation promised an article in this issue on the Mcllroy Prize competition. This will now appear in the Spring 2013 edition, enlarged to record the life of W E C Mcllroy OR himself.

Three Questions: R J (Richard) Brake (1951-57) commented that Messrs Redington, Nightingale, Streather and Saunders all lived not far from his own Warwick Road home and that the last three all played significant roles in his own schooling. He remembered, in particular, a visit led by Birdie Nightingale to see *Hamlet* (Paul Scofield/Mary Ure) in Oxford.

Commentary p 4: Ron Kellman (1939-44) has solved the problem of the Len Cheyney look-alike. It is Louis Lesser (not an OR) Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the time. He was Ron's proposer into Freemasonry nearly 50 years ago.

Juanita 1988 p 44: Dr B J (Bruno) Vieri (1951-58), long resident in USA was interested to see the image of Tom Bucknell and the pair oar; Bruno still rows (out of the University of California, Los Angeles boathouse).

Olympic Year p 27: K D (Keith) Minton (1953-59) has good reason to remember the distinguished Dr Arthur Wint. He was his neighbour in Lucea, Jamaica and in 1970 helped deliver Keith's son, James, and save the life of his wife Christine during a childbirth that was nearly fatal for both mother and child.

Self-flagellation department: there were some minor errors of grammar and punctuation in the Spring issue and the odd inconsistency in layout. All frustrating, but more importantly production was badly delayed and, whilst the issue has been generously received, the co-editors were not satisfied with balance and sharpness in some of the colour images; problems we hope to eliminate for the future. Errors which should have been picked up in proof reading include:

- **School News** p 19: Marjorie Briggs (Friends of Reading School) email address was an old one. It is marj.briggs@gmail.com.
- **Three Questions** p 33: the sentence at the base of the Babington image should have read *Again he was stricken by severe illness and had to fight another battle.*
- **The Last Abbot of Reading** p35: there is apparent contradiction between 14 and 15 November as the date of execution. The writer admits that he remains confused...
- **Obituaries** p 45: Christ College, Cambridge should, of course, read Christ's College, Cambridge.

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

R F Seymour (Hon Sec, US Branch)
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Email: yors862@cs.com



Europe

European Organiser – Peter Wildman (1958-65)

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Tel: +33 563 79 55 23
Email: wildthings81@gmail.com



Australasia

Australasian Organiser – Mike Jones (1957-64)

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11/388 David Low Way
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PEREGIAN BEACH
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ORs wishing to contact the US organiser, Roy Seymour, should please note his new contact details above.

With space at a premium in this issue the editors would like to pay a short tribute to the Association's three active overseas representatives, *pictured above*.

Peter Wildman has only recently undertaken the post of 'European Organiser' which is, to a degree, a passive role not involving an active grouping of Old Redingensians, but providing a focal point for our brethren - should they require it - living permanently or temporarily on the continent.

In the United States of America and in Australasia it is, and has been for a long time, decidedly different. Hard work over many years has built up registers of Old Redingensians in those continents which provide an active communication service and regular gatherings. The network of city and state representatives set up in Australasia by Mike Jones is particularly effective, but Roy Seymour's long involvement and efforts in the USA are equally admirable even if the emphasis on that vast continent tends towards the West Coast. The relationship between all three groupings, mentioned above, and the mother organisation in the United Kingdom is valued very highly and a considerable vote of thanks is due to the respective organisers.

So, what of other areas? Well, part of the North American continent is not really covered despite the numerous ORs who live there: Canada is an area which does not lend itself to easy communications. Some have tried before and it has come to naught, but.....if anyone **is** interested, the membership list can provide many names.

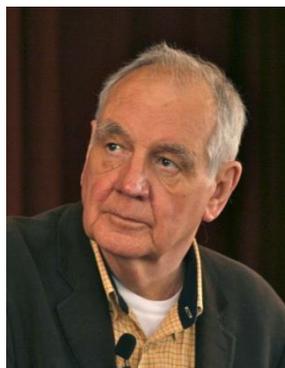
South America, is not, nowadays, fertile ground for ORs, nor the Indian subcontinent. One hundred years ago there were many ORs working and resident in China. Not any more but with China's emergence as a great economic force perhaps there will be again and perhaps there will be a Sino OR Association branch in the future.

Where else? Well there have been intermittent gathering of ORs over the years in Malaysia, Hong Kong, parts of the African Continent, to name a few. The Association is always ready to support any such initiatives.

THE CHARLES DICKENS BI-CENTENARY

Charles Dickens (*pictured below right*) was born 200 years ago this year. It is appropriate that *The Old Redingensian* should mark this anniversary as Dickens had many connections with Reading and indeed twice declined offers to stand as Member of Parliament for the town.

In Professor M D (Michael) Slater (1953-55) (*centre below*) Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London, Reading School produced one of the world's great Dickens Scholars. Indeed Clare Tomalin, in a 2009 review said '*No living person is a greater authority on the life and works of Charles Dickens than Michael Slater*'. Professor Slater is also the past President of the *International Dickens Fellowship* and of the *Dickens Society of America* and edited the journal *The Dickensian* from 1968-77. He is a prolific writer on his subject.



Dickens was a close friend of, and much admired, Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, OR (*left above*) whose 'Tea Tray' has long hung in Big School, and is said to be the model for Tommy Traddles in '*David Copperfield*'. It was Talfourd who launched the Copyright Bill. Charles Dickens dedicated his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, to Talfourd and the extent of his admiration is clear for all to see in the lines that he wrote:

To
MR. SERJEANT TALFOURD, M.P.,
ETC. ETC.

My Dear Sir,

If I had not enjoyed the happiness of your private friendship, I should still have dedicated this work to you, as a slight and most inadequate acknowledgment of the inestimable services you are rendering to the literature of your country, and of the lasting benefits you will confer upon the authors of this and succeeding generations, by securing to them and their descendants a permanent interest in the copyright of their works.

Many a fevered head and palsied hand will gather new vigour in the hour of sickness and distress from your excellent exertions; many a widowed mother and orphan child, who would otherwise reap nothing from the fame of departed genius but its too frequent legacy of poverty and suffering, will bear, in their altered condition, higher testimony to the value of your labours than the most lavish encomiums from lip or pen could ever afford.

Beside such tributes, any avowal of feeling from me, on the question to which you have devoted the combined advantages of your eloquence, character, and genius, would be powerless indeed. Nevertheless, in thus publicly expressing my deep and grateful sense of your efforts in behalf of English literature, and of those who devote themselves to the most precarious of all pursuits, I do but imperfect justice to my own strong feelings on the subject, if I do no service to you.

These few sentences would have comprised all I should have had to say, if I had only known you in your public character. On the score of private feeling, let me add one word more.

Accept the dedication of this book, my dear Sir, as a mark of my warmest regard and esteem – as a memorial of the most gratifying friendship I have ever contracted, and of some of the pleasantest hours I have ever spent – as a token of my fervent admiration of every fine quality of your head and heart – as an assurance of the truth and sincerity with which I shall ever be,

My dear Sir,
Most faithfully and sincerely yours,
CHARLES DICKENS

48, Doughty Street,
September 27, 1837.

Obituaries

DENNIS WILLIAM MATTINGLEY (1936-43)



He disliked his given Christian names, preferring to be known simply as 'Matt', and as such will always be remembered with great affection by his friends and colleagues. He was exceptionally gifted with a wide range of talents, some of which showed clearly during his schooldays at Reading School. He was a true scholar with a keenly precise mind given to a variety of academic and cultural achievements. He was a Scout Troop Leader who towered over the charming but diminutive Scoutmaster, 'Timmy' (*S G Timms Master at School (1928-68) – Ed*). On stage in Big School he was outstanding as Shadbolt in *'The Yeomen of the Guard'* and as Sir Despard in *'Ruddigore'*. His immaculate timing in the duet with Mad Margaret *'I once was a very abandoned person'* is still vivid in the memory. These led to a lifelong love of G & S, for which he parodied brilliantly some of the 'patter songs'. On the field he was a noted athlete at the Long Run and in the 440 before yards were highjacked. He showed the first flowering of a distinguished rigger career as a forward between 25's rather than 22's. He agreed that had the Lord intended us to go metric he would have had only ten apostles! He was a fine Captain of School. On leaving School in 1943 he trained as a naval officer at King Alfred's in Hove before becoming a control officer aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. In thermal contrast he also served in the perilous Arctic convoys to Murmansk.

Demobilisation brought him to Reading University where he read Economics under Dr Budden. He became President of the Union, and naturally took part in all the activities on the attractive 'Old Red' campus. He wrote, produced and acted in Carouse in a glorious sketch called *'The Longer Room'* (named after St David's JCR, *The Long Room*). His 'Pas de Deux' as Miss Margot Mattingley with Mr Massine Mansfield, brought the house down. Needless to say he played rigger for the University and for Berkshire. He followed his degree with a Diploma in Education.

The outset of his teaching career brought him to Downside, where the Abbot, Dom Butler, was also an Old Redingensian (*B E Butler (1911-21) – Ed*). He taught a number of subjects there until a monk was appointed because he needed no salary! Whilst there he developed his rugby, playing for Bath and for the Southern Counties against both Springboks and All Blacks. More importantly he met and married his beloved Catharine. His appointment to Seaford College, near Petworth, brought his career fulfilment to outstanding success. Not only did he teach a number of subjects, he was responsible for the coaching of fine rugby fifteens and he was the greatly respected Housemaster of Charmandean, whose boys were so well nurtured and guided. His enthusiasm for his house was particularly apparent during house-matches when he would stride up and down the touchline oblivious to all but the game, just as 'Sugar' Saunders did at Reading. In addition he and Catharine were impresarios of a splendid dramatic society, not only within College, but also with the Graffham Rustics.

The dramatic connection continued later with the Midhurst Players, and Matt's own performances were as varied as a pantomime dame and Captain Catt in *Under Milk Wood* and *A Man for All Seasons*. His fine voice led the College Choir, under the exceptional musical talent of Philip Hill, to an international reputation, with performances in Washington and at Nôtre Dame among others, and the issue of a delightful CD. Before retirement he became Senior Master and Director of Studies. At Seaford he and Catharine, with their dog Crispin, lived in a charmingly converted dove-cot, where they were superb hosts to delicious food and devilish and hugely enjoyable word games.

In retirement in Stedham he was just as active chorally and dramatically. He took an Open University degree in English Literature, played bridge and Mah Jong and also found time not only to be a voluntary steward at Uppark, but also to train new volunteers. He remained a devoted and supportive member of The Old Redingensian Association being elected President in 1994. He was devastated when he lost Catharine, and found life increasingly difficult. His death was a great sadness to all of his many friends. Farewell Matt and Thank You.

Matt Mattingley died on 9 December 2011 aged 86

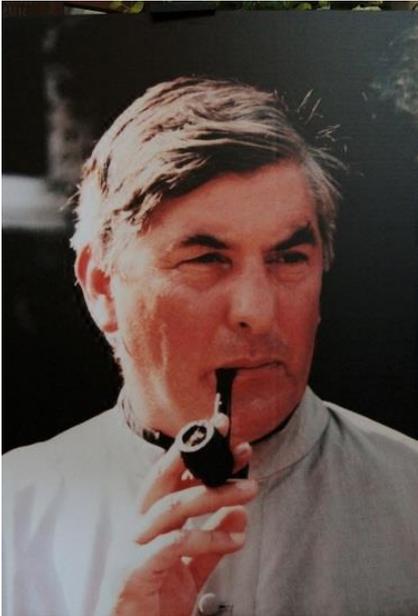
Michael Smith



Floreat Redingensis!



THE REVEREND JOHN BRIAN LAMBOURNE (1944-52)



John was born on 27 April 1936, the son of the Bursar at Blue Coat School. He entered West House at our Junior School in Form 1B at the age of eight and left, from County House, when he reached the fifth form. He had achieved Certificate A in the CCF and gained his House Rugby and Athletic Colours – active sport was to play a large part in subsequent years. Significantly he was also a leading member (JOM) in the Junior Debating Society.

In 1953 he spent some time with John Bucknell & Sons of Coley Park, the dairy farmers, and later widened his experience with a Large White herd of breeding pigs on the bacon fattening unit at Lambdens Farm, Theale. His love of the soil was thus engendered, laying the foundations for the country vicar he was to become.

Meanwhile, he entered Barclays Bank but it was after meeting an RAF padre during his National Service that he began to think about the priesthood. For a time his banking career continued, by then with Coutts & Co (where he worked with another OR, O J Hubert (1945-55)). Whilst at Coutts John was the originator of the side stub in cheque books; now standard practice, of course – for this idea he received £5!

John Lambourne trained at Chichester Theological College. He became a curate and encountered many ups and downs in his early parishes; first Canterbury, then Romney Marsh, followed by East Grinstead, Storrington, and, eventually, for thirty years from 1976 until he retired to Battle in 2006, he was the much loved vicar of Saint Mary the Virgin, Salehurst.

John became a true 'farmer's vicar' even appearing on the BBC Sunday Morning Programme 'On Your Farm'. As his obituary in The Daily Telegraph splendidly put it '*an old fashioned country parson of a type now rarely to be found in the Church of England – a man who filled the pews not with force of intellect but with a sunny disposition and unfeigned enjoyment of good company, and a sympathy with the rhythms of rural life*' (Perhaps illustrated by the beautiful churchyard (pictured below) which the writer walked through at John's funeral service. He disdained modern grass cutters, preferring grazing sheep, and the scythe if necessary).

He was famously impatient with Church bureaucracy sometimes exasperating his superiors but nearly indispensable to them for his knowledge of the agricultural community. His sermons were short; his ministry often conducted from his bar stool in the *Salehurst Halt* – an aisle's length from St Mary's – over a pint; his large church often full to overflowing – and the parishioners of Salehurst and Robertsbridge, an area of hop growing, mixed farming and fruit, devoted to him. John Lambourne demonstrated that the church remained essential to village life.

He was not only the '*Bishop's advisor on rural affairs in the Chichester Diocese*', he was Rural Chaplain for East Sussex, Chaplain to various rugby clubs, to Vinehall School, and for four years a Territorial Army Chaplain. His love of sporting metaphors included the likening of The Trinity to a set of cricket stumps which, seen from the bowling end would appear as three; from square leg as one.

If there was any doubt about John's predestination to be a country parson, it surely lies in his hobbies for (though he loved rugby, golf and cricket), his overriding passion was butterflies, on which he had a considerable library, and a considerable knowledge.

The journalist Charles Moore paid tribute, in *The Spectator*, to John, who was his local vicar. '*He had*', said Mr Moore: '*the pastoral gift. A pastor, of course, is a shepherd. John knew how to make sure that his sheep were hefted*'.

When John was a member of Canterbury Young Farmers Club he had met Lorna, who became his wife and with whom he raised their four children, Matthew, Kate, Rebecca and Victoria. Lorna and the children survive him with fourteen grandchildren.

John Lambourne died from cancer on the 3 May 2012 aged 76.

KCB



CHARLES RAYMOND TICE MBE (1932-38)



Charles Tice, usually known as Raymond, was born in Townsville, Queensland, on 11 January, 1920. His father, Harvey, was an automotive engineer who moved the family to Persia in 1928. From there Raymond was sent with his elder brother Alan (A W Tice 1932-35) to board at Reading School. They were followed into West Wing by their younger brother Don (D E Tice 1938-39).

Raymond loved his time at School and had a distinguished career there, becoming Captain of his Wing, Captain of Boarders (leading them to the Cock House Cup both in 1937 and 1938) and, in his final year, Captain of School, the only Australian to be so thus far.

He played a very full part in School life, being a member of all the leading Societies, (gaining a Character from the Debating Society) and becoming

a librarian. In the Corps he was eventually CQMS.

His sporting career was quite outstanding: a 1st XV Colour for two years, a 1st XI Colour for three years, a School Swimming Colour, a fine boxer (best U/15 boxer 1933, best Senior Boxer 1936, School Heavyweight Champion 1937) and tennis player. His School cricket career included being bowled by the young W J Edrich (then on the Lords Ground Staff), adding his name to the list of Reading School century makers and, in his final year, when he captained the XI, catching out the great Jack Hobbs (*Raymond is on the left in the image below*).

He turned down an opportunity to go to Cambridge and instead joined British Petroleum; then World War II broke out and Raymond became an officer in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. As he spoke Spanish he was sent to serve with the Special Forces (attached Parachute Regiment) where he trained SOE agents to parachute, flying with them on night missions behind enemy lines. He finished the War as a Major having also served in India, Burma, and received a Mention in Despatches - and after the War (having declined a regular commission) an MBE.

Rejoining BP he returned to Persia, continuing his sporting career with enthusiasm and greatly enjoyed life until 1951, when Iran expelled the Western Oil companies. He then lived on Jersey until reassignment to Australia where, in Perth, he met Zita Paddon and shortly afterwards they embarked on the long marriage which produced their two children, Cherry (now Mrs Robert Tunnock) and Nigel.

After further postings in Australia, (where he continued his sporting activities for many years) Raymond's career culminated in the appointment as BP's National Administration Manager for the continent. Thereafter he was able to enjoy many years of active retirement and family life. He remained very proud of his old School and attended Australian OR Reunions.

Zita predeceased Raymond. Until the end he remained in good health, living in his own home. He is survived by his daughter, his son and two grandsons, Julian and Oliver, and by brother Don. Alan died in 2003.

Raymond Tice died on 8 February 2012 age 92.

KCB

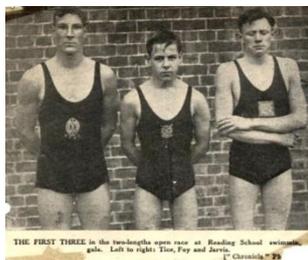
Scenes from Raymond's Reading School days



JACK HOBBS signing autographs at Reading School ground yesterday, when he played for Mr. A. Kempton's XI.



Above, with brother Alan



THE FIRST THREE in the two-lengths open race at Reading School swimming gala. Left to right: Tice, Fay and Jarvis. Chronicle 29



From West Wing, the world awaits!

ROBERT ARNOLD DE GENCY SEWELL (1936-39 and 1942-44)



R A de G Sewell, always known as Robin, was born in Reading on 6 August, 1927. His mother and both grandmothers were French and his father taught modern languages at Reading School as a visiting Master from 1930-39. Robin's elder brother, Gerard, was at School from 1930-39. He died on active service in World War II and is one of the three subjects of *Men Such As These* by John Oakes and Martin Parsons, published in 2003.

Robin entered West House in September 1936 and left for the Oratory in March, 1939. He did not trouble the scorers much in that time, but returned in April 1942 as a boarder and before he left, in December 1944, he became a School Monitor, Captain of East Wing, Captain of Boarders Music and gained Cricket 2nd XI Colours. What was to become a lifelong interest manifested itself in his membership of the Sing Song Committee, the Dramatic Society – he drew the highest praise for his 1944 performance as Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – and the Operatic Society (his Strephon in *Iolanthe* (1944) '*happily mingled the Mortal and the Immortal*').

Robin had been in the ATC at School but it was in the Army that he saw service. He was with the Royal Artillery in India, Singapore and Malaya after training in Northern Ireland. He received a commission. Back in civvies his ambition and talent led to the award of a RADA Scholarship in 1948. In his finals he gained distinction in all subjects, the Irene Vanbrugh Prize and the BBC Prize for Dramatic and Comedy Speech. Robin was invited to join the Old Vic Company and remained with them until 1953. He took part in the Festival of Britain 1951, the Edinburgh Festival, toured in Europe and was involved with the BBC Repertory Company.

When he left the professional theatre in 1954 it was for greater financial security elsewhere, to support married life. At first he was with the Automobile Association in London and Paris but after returning to the UK in 1958 (by then with three young children) he joined the pharmaceutical company which became Bush Boake Allen, where his bilingualism was put to good use and for which he became a senior sales export executive for Europe. Robin retired in 1992.

Theatrical activities had not ceased. He was connected to the Stockwells Players of Aston Upthorpe from 1951 until 1975 when they closed; both as a principal member of the cast and as a producer. The entire family became involved. Robin, with another ex-Stockwells stalwart, then established a theatre group in Blewbury, with whom he acted and produced until 1993.

In 1986, Robin and Lalie came to live permanently in Aston Upthorpe and he threw himself into village life until Parkinson's disease, first diagnosed in 2004, curtailed his activities.

Amongst ORs at St Michael's Church in Aston Tirrold was S C (Steve) White (1957-61). Robin is survived by Lalie, his twin sons Philip and Richard, his daughter Christine and seven grandchildren.

Robin Sewell died on 5 June 2012 aged 84.

KCB

MARK JAMES REECE (1990-97)

Mark was born on 6 July 1979 to Michael and June Reece and went to Shinfield Infants and Junior Schools before entering Reading School. He was in County House and received a Year 10 English Prize in 1994. Mark was also a member of the CCF and did well academically gaining three good 'A' Levels and becoming the first member of his family to go to university.

He read biochemistry at Southampton University and went on to work in pharmaceutical research before becoming a Veterinary Serologist (Serologists typically diagnose anti-bodies in blood serum).

At Southampton he also discovered the enjoyments of live role play and continued these activities at the University of Reading after he had graduated. There he met his future wife Danielle, a post graduate student. They became engaged in 2006 and married in 2009, setting up home in Horsham.

In July of that year Mark developed blurred vision in his right eye. It was a melanoma and his right eye was removed not long before his wedding day.

Their daughter, Laura, was born bringing great joy to the family: but the cancer had returned. Chemotherapy worked for a year but not thereafter. Mark spent his last days in St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley. He is survived by Danielle and their daughter, his parents and his sister, Claire.

Mark Reece died on 14 April 2012 aged 32.

KCB



DR DAVID TREASURE COUSINS FRACS (1939-43)



David and his twin brother John were born in Cardiff, the sons of a Northern Irish father and a mother from New Zealand. They arrived at Reading School in January 1939 in Form UplIIB and West House.

Both brothers were all-rounders at School and both became School Prefects. As 5th formers they shared the Richard Valpy Prize for Scripture. David represented the School's first teams in Rugby, Rowing, Hockey and Shooting and gained School Initials for Chess, Music and Seekers.

The twins had been in the JTC, transferring to the ATC, at School and were matriculated in 1943 as RAF Cadets by St John's College, Oxford. David was sent to Canada for training as a navigator in Bomber Command, reaching the rank of Flying Officer in 1945. After the Second World War ended the twins returned to St John's College, to read History and Philosophy but David left for Keble to read medicine – followed by John a year later to do the same. David qualified BM, BCh in 1954, and remained until 1957, gaining his diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He completed his surgical training in Edinburgh and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1959 he married Rosamund Shanks in London, and by 1960 was at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth. His marriage broke down and he decided (with his parents) to emigrate to Australia where his twin brother had already moved (to Ballarat, Victoria to take over a general practice).

David took up a post at the Moe Hospital, Gippsland, in Victoria, qualifying to practise surgery in Australia in 1967. He undertook (voluntarily) a six month tour of duty in Vietnam with the Australian Surgical and Medical Team. He used innovative surgery, of which he was proud, in that theatre of war, but was also extremely disturbed by the terrible injuries that he witnessed. David Cousins was awarded the Vietnam Medal.

He worked in Gippsland at the Newlands Health Centre until retirement in 2001, spent alone on his farm in Yallourn, surrounded by books and music but remaining deeply interested in people and world events - he kept many radios each tuned to a different station. David was a proficient piano player and greatly enjoyed gatherings of musical friends at his home.

A year after he retired he had developed pancreatic cancer; days after he was operated on in Melbourne he discharged himself and went home. Against all odds he lived for nearly another ten years. He is survived by his four nephews and his niece.

David Cousins died on 2 December 2011 aged 86.

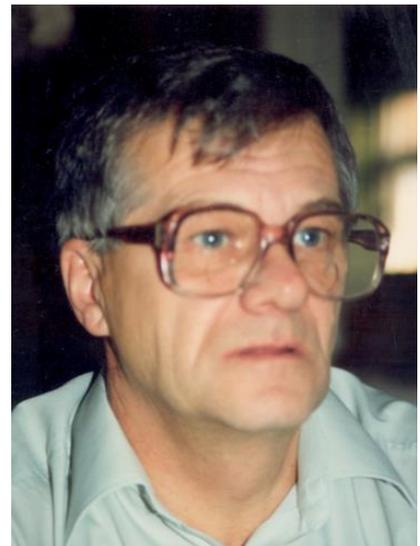
KCB

BRIAN HAROLD WEBB (1941-47)

From Hemdean Road Caversham Council Junior School, Brian won a Berkshire Education Committee Scholarship to Reading School where he was in West House, won the Lower Vc Form Prize in 1946, was in the JTC and gained his School Certificate in 1947.

On leaving School Brian joined the auctioneers Thimbleby & Shorland. He was a member of No 381 Squadron Air Training Corps and his two years National Service was spent in the Royal Air Force. He returned to Thimbleby & Shorland, staying with them until 1956 when he embarked upon a career with Eagle Star Insurance Company. He became a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute. Brian remained with them until he retired (by which time the Company had been absorbed under the Zurich Insurance banner).

In 1958 Brian married Pamela Wootton at St Peter's Church, Caversham and their marriage produced Paul, Wendy, John and Jackie. Brian's career took the family from Reading to Weston-Super-Mare and then to Hereford. For forty years they lived in Winchcombe – Pamela still does - and Brian's career concluded in the post of Training Officer at Head Office in Cheltenham.



His lifelong interests in model aircraft and model building were fostered in the Aeronautical Society at School; in the late 1940s he joined the Reading Sky Observers Club, the British Association of Aviation Clubs, Reading Associated Aero Clubs and the Reading Solid Model Society. Brian was also a keen canoeist, completing the Devizes – Westminster race three times.

He is survived by Pamela, his four children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Brian Webb died on 7 October 2011 aged 80.

KCB

FIONNUALA MARY ASHCROFT (1981-2006)



Nuala taught at Reading School for 25 years. She arrived in Michaelmas Term 1981 to join what was then an all-male teaching staff. She was a classicist, teaching Latin, but went on to join the Modern Languages Department to teach French (and occasionally German) which she did until her retirement in 2006. Former Master at School A P (Phillip) Rothbart remembers Nuala as a forthright and supportive colleague with a practical, no-nonsense approach who took a generous interest in her pupils' activities.

Nuala Kennedy was born in Hammersmith on 10 August 1946. Both she and her brother Neil attended St Stephen's RC Primary School and, in 1957, Nuala moved on to the Girls Grammar School, The Sacred Heart Convent. From there she went in 1964 to Queen Mary College, London University, graduating with an Honours degree in French. The next year she completed a Dip Ed at the University of Reading.

Her first teaching post was in Harlesden at The Convent of Jesus and Mary. She moved to Reading and taught at Chiltern Edge School and then at Maiden Erlegh School, where she met her future husband Stephen Ashcroft. They married in 1975 and had two sons, Patrick,

born in 1978, (who attended Reading School 1990-97) and Matthew, born in 1982 (who attended Reading School 1993-00).

Stephen died in 2009 after lung cancer, courageously borne, and his loss was a significant factor in the severe ill health that Nuala developed and which eventually effectively robbed her of the will to live.

Nuala Ashcroft was characterised by compassion, humour and humility. She remained proud of her Irish roots and prouder still of her family. She had dedicated herself to the upbringing and education of her two boys with tireless devotion. There were many former colleagues and ex-pupils attending the Requiem Mass held on a glittering winter's day at the church of Our Lady and Saint Anne in Lower Caversham, on 27 January.

Nuala Ashcroft, who is survived by her sons and by her brother Neil, died on 12 January 2012 aged 65. KCB

BRIAN THOMAS ROBBINS (1947-55)

Brian Robbins was born in Wallingford in 1936, the second eldest of seven. He remained involved in the area, and a proud Wallingfordian all his life. From St John's Primary in Wallingford he went to Reading School initially in County House, but within the year he became a boarder (and ultimately Captain of East Wing, and of Boarders, and a School Prefect). He played in the 1st XV's of 1953 and 1954, gained his School Colours, and also captained the Boarders House XV. At cricket he captained the School 3rd XI. He became a Sergeant in the CCF and a first class shot, and took a full part in the life of the School.

On leaving School he embarked on a successful forty year career as an electrical instrument engineer at the Hydraulic Research Station in Crowmarsh. An accident in 1960, when a double decker bus smashed his left leg, entailed a near eighteen month stay in the Radcliffe Infirmary and curtailment of his sporting career. Brian was a pragmatic character and simply adapted to the changes that the accident enforced, without complaint.

He married Carol in 1968 and their son was born in 1971. In 1974 they bought a newly built house in Borough Avenue and that has remained the family home.

Brian involved himself with scouting and local dramatics and was always on hand with practical advice and constructional skills. He was active in Wallingford committee groups and a founder member of WAGS (the Wallingford Amateur Gardening Society).

When he retired in 1995 he became a member of PROBUS. Every Tuesday he helped in the Cancer Research shop and every Friday for many years in Cholsey Day Centre. He played short mat bowls with the Wallingford Club and acted as Treasurer – and also played for the Hagbourne Club where Carol is a member.

Brian was diagnosed with lung cancer in November 2011; he came through an operation at Guy's Hospital but failed to survive its aftermath. He is survived by Carol and by his son Dr Matthew Robbins.

Brian Robbins died on 18 January 2012 aged 75.

KCB



DAVID HENRY GEORGE MILLAR (1947-53)



David was born in Reading and spent his first year at Reading School in East House, then transferred to County House where he remained until he left School from Form 51.

He made his career in insurance, joining the old Ocean Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Commercial Union (now Aviva) at their branch in Friar Street. He later worked for Guardian Royal Exchange and eventually transferred into the Insurance Broking sector. He became a Director of John Holt & Partners (Insurance Brokers) Ltd, one of the companies in the financial services group established by J (Jack) Holt, OR (1948-53). Jack, at one time, had not only David on the staff but four other old Redingensians: M A Cox (1980-87), M A Rendall (1972-77), A M West (1974-81) and J B Gainsford (1980-87).

In 1962 David married Marion McTiernan and their marriage produced a son and a daughter.

In retirement David was able to indulge his passions of collecting, gardening, visiting mediaeval cathedrals (he had been to all but two in England) and researching his family tree.

Marion did not long survive him, sadly dying on 6 July this year. They leave their son Julian and their daughter Fiona, who between them have five children.

David Millar died on 27 March 2012 aged 75.

KCB

DAVID WISE (1949-52)

David Wise was a professional horn player and teacher. He came to Reading School from Tiffins, Kingston-upon-Thames, where the practical and inventive streak in his nature had found expression through the Boy Scouts and his love of the river had been nurtured in his school boat club and in the ownership, with his friend David Knight, of an ex-RAF surplus rubber dinghy.

He joined the Science Vth where he was taught by 'Stret' (W J Streather, Master at School 1925-62), 'Bony' (A J Grigg 1921-56), and Harry Thomas (1949-64). He also took violin lessons from F C V (Charlie) Davis (1907-52) and, in the evenings, at 10/- (50p) a term extra French Horn lessons. David was in the School Orchestra and also became an Assistant Scout Master in the School Troop (55th Reading) under M J (Michael) Hinton (aka 'Scruffy') (1949-53). He represented County House in Rugby, Gymnastics, Rowing and Swimming. He gained School Rowing Colours ('a *consistent hardworking oarsman*' read his 'character' in 1951) and was also on the wider School scene for Music, the Opera, and as a member of various societies.



Leaving in 1952 with three 'A' Levels he went straight into the army to do National Service which took him into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Band in Northern Ireland. David signed on for three years, and an indulgent Bandmaster (George Churchill, whose widow Kate was at David's funeral service) allowed him the freedom to do deputy work with the BBC Northern Ireland Light Orchestra. Whilst a 'dep' horn with the BBC, just before demob, he was approached for an immediate vacancy at 4th Horn in the Halle Orchestra, then under the direction of Sir John Barbirolli. He auditioned, was accepted and remained until 1963.

In the Orchestra he met and married his first wife Jean Brier and they moved to '*land of the summer wine*' country when they left the Halle, and David freelanced for three enjoyable years before applying to join a wind ensemble in the West Riding. The specification was that the group would visit 1200 schools – revision under the 1974 boundary changes reduced that to 400 schools under Leeds Education Committee. David played and taught in this peripatetic fashion until his retirement in 1992, having also instructed for 20 years at Bretton Hall Teacher Training College in Wakefield.

In retirement he stopped playing, but became more active than ever. He was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable photographer; he indulged his lifelong love of gadgets and his capable practicality. After Jean died in 1993 he moved back to Kingston and, in 2000, married Mary Perry; a very happy and successful partnership which brought him a new family. He became much involved with St Mark's Church, in Teddington, where he had been treasurer and a sidesman.

David fell victim to a variety of cancers and an untreatable abscess on the lung. After entering hospital he deteriorated rapidly. A Thanksgiving Service was held for his life at St Mark's, where there were more than one hundred present. There was a splendid reception at The Wharf, Teddington, after the Service to honour a life well lived.

His boyhood friend, now the Rev Canon David Knight, described him as a '*kind, gifted, modest man (who) lived life with a child-like enthusiasm*'. His old schoolmaster Michael Hinton, wrote that he was '*a gentle, and eirenic soul with a warm and courteous manner.....*'. He is survived by Mary, his brother Peter, his sisters Jean and Sue, his step-son John and two step-grandchildren Thomas and Lucy.

David Wise died on 30 January 2012 aged 78.

KCB

MAJOR SIDNEY (VIDCOSKY) VINES (1930-39)



Sidney was born on 30 May 1921, the son of Louis and Rebecca Vidcosky. His father was a master tailor of 29 St Mary's Butts. At Reading School (which he joined at the age of 8) he met his lifelong friend Esslemont (Essie) Steel (1931-39) and was highly involved in activities ranging from the Wolf Cub Pack that won the 1932 Berkshire Totem Pole, through regular appearances at Speech Day to a Prefect's tie, the Captaincy of his House, (West) School Colours for both Swimming (Captain of School Swimming in 1939) and Rugby (1st XV 'character' 1939). He was a member of the Debating Society, twice receiving a 'character', and of the Dramatic Society. He became a sergeant in the OTC commanding No V Platoon and was a keen chess player, gaining his House Initials. He also gained his House Athletic Colours. To Sidney school days were full of fun.

He contributed to the School magazine whilst he was at School, continued after he left, and later had articles published in *The Old Redingensian*. He often said that the School had enriched his life, for which he was forever grateful.

Not long after leaving School he was commissioned, at the age of 19, into the Royal Artillery and the Army became his career. He landed on Gold Beach as a Forward Artillery Observer on D Day and was Mentioned in Despatches. On 16 March 1946 at Bandoeng, Java, he married Joanne van de Velde (known as Minoushka). Sidney attended Staff College in 1949, was promoted Major in 1955 and retired from the Army in 1960, by which time he had changed his name to Vines. He invested his 'golden bowler' in a restaurant business in Southampton which allowed him to devote much of his time to fishing and writing. He was a regular contributor to *Trout and Salmon* and to *The Field*.

For many years Sidney lived at West Dean on the River Dun, running fishing courses. He wrote the Countryman's Notes column in *The Field* – and was also their Church correspondent. His books included the authoritative and handsome Batsford Book *The English Chalk Streams* (1992) and the biography: *Frank Sawyer: Man of the Riverside* (1984). In retirement the Vines' moved to Laverstock where the River Bourne ran through the garden and Sidney had a pet shoal of specimen grayling, none less than two pounds in weight. He remained deeply concerned for the future of chalk streams and was the first patron of the *Wandle Piscators* (dedicated to the restoration of the River Wandle).

This fine chronicler of chalk streams was also an authority on the Normandy Beaches, on which he lectured and where he led tours of young army officers for some years. He had a deep interest in the works of Thomas Hardy; he was active for the homeless; he followed the fortunes of Southampton FC. Truly, Sidney filled Kipling's 'unforgiving minute'.

Minoushka pre-deceased him after 63 years of marriage and he leaves his daughters Amanda and Moira.

Sidney Vines died on 18 April 2012 aged 90.

KCB

BARRY G WIGMORE (1957-62)

Barry Wigmore, the eldest of six children, was born in Reading on 10 April 1946. He went to Emmer Green Primary School, where he was the cricket captain, before Reading School where he spent five years, gained Rep. Rugby Colours as a safe and reliable full back in the 1st XV, won his House (County) J G Fry Cup and left to pursue a career in journalism.

This he did to considerable effect. After the usual provincial apprenticeship he joined the London Evening News and then the Mirror in 1977 where he served as a 'fireman' both at home and abroad, including war reporting from Sarajevo during the Balkan War and sharing the UK Press Gazette Reporter of the Year Award with the rest of the Mirror team who worked on the notorious Joyce McKinney story. For the best part of two years he was the Mirror's man in New York.

In 1966 he had married Pauline Jennings at St Barnabas, Emmer Green and they had two children, Paul and Lisa.

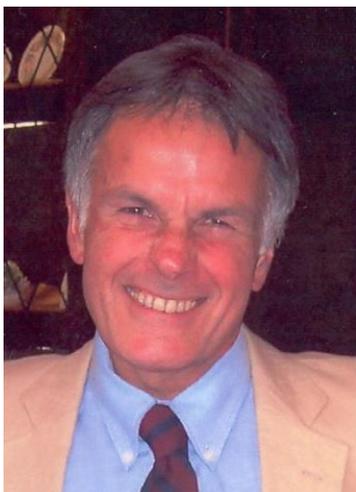
The editor of the short lived *Today*, Paul Stott, lured Barry from the Mirror in 1993 and made him his US editor. When the paper folded 18 months later, Barry decided to remain in the USA as a freelance. His reputation as a reliable and consummate professional was such that he was never short of work on behalf of both tabloid and broadsheet papers in London and it took him throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. He and Pauline lived in Connecticut, and then in Florida where they had a house built for them. In 2007 they returned to the UK to be near their family, but Barry was diagnosed with a degenerative disease, Multiple System Atrophy, from which he died after a long illness. He leaves Pauline, his two children and two grandchildren.

Barry Wigmore died on 28 July 2011 aged 65.

KCB



CHRISTOPHER DAVID NICKOLLS (1959-66)



Christopher was born in Reading to Peter, who had a wholesale fruiterers business, and Beth Nickolls on 26 March 1948. At Reading School he was in West House, developed a particular interest in English Literature and left to pursue a teaching career, gaining his B Ed at Brighton College of Higher Education.

In Brighton he met and married his first wife, Sue, and they moved to Truro when Christopher took up his first teaching post, which was at Truro School. He moved from there to a comprehensive in Newquay. Two factors that shaped his future life occurred; the gradual breakup of his marriage and his decision to become an Educational Psychologist. To achieve the necessary degree he joined a course at Manchester University and there he met Elaine Bryant. They both graduated with degrees in Psychology.

Elaine became his wife in 1978, Christopher completed his Master's Degree at Exeter, and there their son Matthew was born. His first post as an Educational Psychologist was in Norfolk where their daughter and Tamsin was born in 1980, followed by second son Leo (now a talented graphic designer) in 1983.

The family was complete, Christopher was promoted and they moved to Dereham into the family home of the last 28 years. Christopher's green fingers and self-sufficiency inclinations were there able to be given full rein. His interests were various if somewhat rooted in the mod culture of the 1960s; he kept and used a Vespa scooter; was devoted to the music of the period; a certain style was deeply ingrained in him. He was also devoted to the war films of the 1940s and 50s.

In the 1990s he served as a JP in Norwich, giving this up when the demands of his career made it impractical to continue. A further promotion in 2002 saw him achieve his career goal in becoming a Principal Educational Psychologist. He took early retirement in 2005, when he was already unwell, and spent his last eight years spent battling AL Amyloidosis.

Christopher Nickolls was characterised by his determination, optimism, humour, loyalty; and as his family and friends testified, a deep capacity to love. ORs at the celebration of his life at Colney Wood last April included D R (David) Cath (1963-65) and M S (Martin) Wise (1960-67).

Elaine also works as an Educational Psychologist and she survives Christopher with Matthew, Tamsin, Leo and grandchildren Alfie and Eva.

Christopher Nickolls died at home peacefully in his sleep on 10 March 2012 aged 63.

KCB

DAVID MICHAEL MUIR (1956-63)



David Muir was an Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University, Australia, and gained an international reputation in the field of hydrometallurgy. *'A colossal researcher', 'a tremendous educator' and 'a humble and true gentleman'* were some of the tributes posted on line by his colleagues. He was the former Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Hydrometallurgy*, author of over 120 publications, and a founding member of the Parker Co-operative Research Centre in Hydrometallurgy, established in 1992.

David was born in Reading on 2 January 1945, and was in East House at Reading School, becoming a School Monitor. Initially small for his age and quietly academic, his House Captain identified in his wiry physique the potential of a cross country runner and in David's first taste of competition he duly ran away with the Senior Second String Cross Country Championship in a good time. He also became a keen competitor in other House activities in his final year at School. (He was to remain a passionate runner, involved in rowgaining – winning an Australian championship - orienteering and in marathons).

David completed a PhD at Bristol University in 1968 and then joined the Australian National Universities Research School of Chemistry in Canberra, arriving in Australia with his wife Pat and young daughter Lisa.

From organic chemistry reaction mechanisms, his research direction changed and in 1973 he moved to Murdoch University, in Perth, became one of the Foundation Lecturers in a Department teaching chemistry and mineral science and started a new research career in hydrometallurgy. This eventually resulted in his being elected a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. David's first marriage ended in divorce and he was to remarry in 2004.

In 1995, by then an Associate Professor, he left Murdoch for Western Mining Corporation as a Senior Technology Lecturer. Three years later he was appointed Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Minerals in Perth, where he remained for the rest of his working life. In 2011 he was awarded the inaugural Parker Centre Fellowship.

In addition to David's joy in running, he cycled and hiked and became a keen sailor. As a member of South of Perth Yacht Club, he competed fiercely for many years in his yacht *Magnum Force*.

He finally lost an extended fight against cancer and is survived by his widow Mary-Kate, his daughter and three grandchildren.

David Muir died on 16 September 2011 aged 66.

KCB

ALAN DINES (1947-48)



Born in Hounslow, Alan Dines entered UpVB and West House at Reading School in 1947. At the same time his younger brother M J (Michael) Dines (1947-51) went into UIIC. Alan left in October 1948 from the Geography VIth with his School Certificate. He was to have a successful career as an architect and project manager, but it was as a formidable table tennis player and coach that he became more widely known.

As part of a celebration of the 1948 Olympic Games at Wembley Alan and D R T (David) Sherwill (1943-49) were selected to promote table tennis. They were coached by Johnny Leach, Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann – all world champions. Alan introduced David (who was present at the funeral service) to table tennis and he still plays.

After spending his National Service with the Royal Air Force, Alan built on the electrical engineering training he had received in the Service (a one year degree programme compressed into three months). Early on he worked at Lassetter & Judd in Blagrove Street, Reading and later formed the Alan Dines Partnership (in 2005 the business was acquired by Ridge & Partners).

To Alan life was an adventure. He claimed he had been shot at in Cyprus when in the RAF, and again in Chechnya; that he was once offered a MiG-29 in lieu of payment; was the first Westerner into the Kremlin after the fall of the Soviet Union (he was in Moscow to buy telescopes from the KGB to sell in the UK). As he was also known for his tall stories no one was ever sure what was fact and what was fiction.....

As a table tennis player Alan won many honours including the Reading Individual Handicap in 1967/68 and for forty-one years he ran the Institute of Match Play and Coaching Techniques (IMPACT) introducing thousands of youngsters to the sport including the four times National Ladies Champion, and Olympian, Alison Broe.

He served on the Reading and Berkshire TTA Committee as Development Officer. With John Cunningham of Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club, Alan produced many players who won local, county and national honours. He managed the JC Youth League for several years and worked tirelessly running after-school sessions at many local schools, continuing until near the end of his life. He gave his time generously – and for free. In 2009 the English Table Tennis Association awarded him a lifetime coaching honour. His service to the wider community was not confined to table tennis; he was, for instance, on the Readibus Committee.

Alan was twice married and twice divorced. A son, Nicky by his first wife, Maisie, predeceased him. She survives him, together with his second wife, Terri, the children of that marriage, Jonathan and Kevin, and his sister, Pat. His brother Michael died two years ago.

Alan Dines died on 6 January 2012 aged 79.

KCB

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to Patrick Ashcroft, David Jordan OR, Mike Jones OR, Rev Canon David Knight, Denis Moriarty OR, Elaine Nickolls, Mike Reece, Philip Rothbart, Mike Smith OR, Fiona Sugden, Cherry Tunnock,

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



In Memoriam

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

M H (Michael) Crisp (1936-44)

Civil Engineer

Died 4 September 2011 aged 84

T N (Trevor) Crisp (1945-54)

Automotive Engineer

Died 29 October 2011 aged 75

B (Bernard) Messias (1939-47)

Pensions Advisor

Died November 2011 aged 78

M (Murray) Mitchell (1941-51)

Geologist

Died 26 March 2012 aged 78

D O P (David) Thomas (1942-52)

Schoolmaster

Died 30 July 2012 aged 78

K R F (Ken) George (1931-37)

Accountant

Died 9 August 2012 aged 92

K B A (Ken) Cullen (1970-77)

Software Engineer

Died 16 August 2012 aged 53

J (John) Dawkins (1939-46)

Mechanical Engineer

Died 2 September 2012 aged 83

J L (John) Vaughan (1970-2003)

Schoolmaster

Died 29 September 2012 aged 64

A J (Tony) Collins (1952-56)

Civil Servant (Customs and Excise)

Died 2 October 2012 aged 71

B M (Brendan) Coakeley (1935-44)

Lecturer in Accountancy

Died 6 October 2012 aged 85

His Honour Sir F J (Frank) White (1937-44)

Senior Circuit Judge

Died 23 October 2012 aged 85

E S (Eddie) Hughes (1934-36)

Electrical Engineer

Died 5 November 2012 aged 88

Dr M R (Michael) Turner (1944-53)

Nutritionist/Medical Research

Died 6 November 2012 aged 78

D T H (Derrick) Fisher (1936-43)

Executive The Wellcome Foundation

Died 7 November 2012 aged 85

D B (David) Sumpster (1938-45)

Architect and Conservator

Died 7 November 2012 aged 85

D (David) Wilson (1942-50)

Physicist

Died 30 November 2012 aged 80

Professor E A (David) Vincent (1930-36)

Geologist

Died 24 December 2012 aged 93

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



From the Editors



Our call to the Colours in the Spring 2012 editorial did not exactly result in a cavalry charge of ORs eager to take over the magazine. So far there has been just one welcome soul pledging an interest to become part of a new team when the current co-editors retire. But where is the team? If the magazine is not to cease after the Autumn 14 issue there must be people to carry it forward....

The case for Henry I to be included in the School Bidding Prayer seems unassailable; he endowed Reading Abbey as a Benedictine Foundation which meant there had to be a school within it. That school was the seed corn of Reading School. A case has now been made for the inclusion, also, of Alfred Edgar

Milward (see article in this issue). There is also a third worthy of inclusion, William Conrad Costin. In next Spring's issue his claims will be explained in an article about the genesis and development of the Bidding Prayer.

Reading School greeting cards are available in packs of five at a cost of £5 per pack. They can be ordered via development@reading-school.co.uk. They are highly recommended for their quality and superb images – one pack shows two of the windows in the Chapel and the other pack has two images taken with equipment in the School Observatory. The inside is blank for the sender's own message. All proceeds go to the 1125 Fund.

The Co-Editors have chosen this page to say farewell to the Principal, **Mr John Weeds**, who has left us for the Headship of Cranbrook in Kent, that much enlightened County as far as grammar schools are concerned, and to welcome **Mr Ashley Robson BA PGCE MBA** who, correctly in our view for the best interests of a school which draws much strength from its traditions, has reverted to the title of Headmaster.

Mr Weeds came to us in 2006 from Slough Grammar School, where he had been Assistant Principal and later Deputy Head, but with a strong background before that in the Independent Sector. After studying at Pembroke College Cambridge and Nottingham University he taught Classics at Hampton School, then at Bolton School before becoming Head of Classics and a Housemaster at Bedford School in 1993.



His six years at Reading School have been fruitful and he leaves it in good shape with a remarkable academic standard and more and more boys achieving across a wide range of activities, sporting and cultural. During Mr Weeds's time the School has become an Academy freeing it from the shackles of a bureaucracy that was not always operated in a way that was sympathetic to the School. His vision enabled the new refectory to be created (and it will surely be seen as a memorial to his time at the School) and indeed The Kirkwood Room amongst much else.



Mr Robson's appointment has been welcomed with great enthusiasm by ORs and staff alike, who of course know him from his existing seven years at School. The Governing Body are surely to be congratulated for making this internal appointment – the first such since Dr Eppstein in 1894.

Mr Robson was educated at Lord Williams' School, Thame, gained BA (Hons) in History at the University of Newcastle and has professional qualifications from the University of East Anglia and the University of London. He commenced his teaching career at Princes Risborough Upper School in 1989, then spent five years from 1991, at RGS High Wycombe before ten years at Aylesbury Grammar School where he was Head of History, Head of House, and Assistant Head Teacher.

He came to Reading School in 2005 in the role of 'Second Master'. Following the 2010 Inspection, OFSTED rated Reading School as 'Outstanding', he also initiated the links which have been forged with schools in Copenhagen and Shanghai, referred to elsewhere.

Mr Robson is married to Lorna and has two boys and a girl, all currently in their teens. He has a general interest in Sport and, naturally, History - with a special interest in Italian History and in the development of Cities.

His first Headmaster's Letter appears on page 16 and the Association wishes him a long and most successful headship!



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Old Redingensians have taken part in a remarkable number of significant historical events. They are also found in the widest range of the activities that have formed our social fabric, often as innovators, frequently as enthusiastic participants. The development of organised sport certainly has its share of ORs, though some readers may be pleasantly surprised to find that this includes the captain of a team that played in an FA Cup final. (See article on p 25.) The illustration on the front cover is of a replica of the FA Cup that Robert Shafto Hedley OR narrowly failed to lift. (The original trophy was stolen from a shopkeeper's window in Birmingham in 1895 when Aston Villa were the holders. It is thought to have been melted down.)