

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



QUO LUX DUCIT

APRIL 1975

1st ISSUE

Editors
W.J.D. WHITE
P.J.CALLAGHAN

Contents

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Letter from the Editor | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Society Officers 1974-75 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Minutes of the 41st AGM | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 1975 Reunion | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| The School in 1975 | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Sport | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Church Bells | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Informal Talks | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Next Reunion | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| J.H. Simpson Memorial Trust | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Obituary | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| O.R. News | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| News of Recent Leavers | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| O.R. Society Rules | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

Dear Old Rendcombian,

At the society's A.G.M. last July it was decided to send out an annual newsletter as the subscription to the society no longer covers the cost of circulating copies of the Rendcomb Chronicle to O.R.'s.

This letter is therefore something of an experiment, as it is difficult to decide what you would like to be included in it apart from O.R. news. So we hope you will send us your news, together with that of any O.R. s whom you meet, and also let us know what items about the school or the society you would like to see in the next edition. Please remember that the success of this venture depends on YOU!

Society Officers 1974 – 75

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| President: | J. B. Fell |
| Chairman: | J. Gilchrist |
| Secretary: | P. J. Callaghan |
| Treasurer: | J. M. Webb |
| School Representative: | W. J. D. White |

Notes from the Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting, July 1974

1. Secretary to circulate his version of amended rules for adoption at the 1975 A.G.M.
2. The life subscription was raised to £10.00, including the first two years of the college magazine. Subscription is to be included automatically in the last term's account.
3. President Mr. J.B. Fell. Assistant Secretary Mr. P.J. Callaghan.
4. The Lee-Browne Memorial Fund
John Sumsion is to purchase three teak garden benches to be presented to the college in October 1974. O.R.'s raised approximately £81.00.
5. J.B. Fell Retirement Gift
It was agreed to present a cheque to Mr. Fell for him to purchase oriental china of his choice.
6. Any Other Business
All staff in future to attend the annual July buffet.

As yet no-one has volunteered to organise the London dinner.

58 persons attended the buffet.

Reunion - Saturday July 5th 1975

Lunchtime, assemble at Bathurst Arms, North Cerney.

2.00 p.m. Cricket match (prompt start). Girls' tennis match time to be fixed.

6.30 p.m. Stumps will be drawn.

7.00 p.m. A.G.M.

8.15 p.m. Buffet supper

Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of last A.G.M
3. Matters arising.
4. Secretary's report. Amendment of rules.
5. Treasurer's report. Accounts.
6. Election of officers: president, chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, auditor, sports secretary.
7. J.B. Fell presentation.
8. Report of Lee-Browne presentation.

9. "History of Rendcombe", John James' book to be published during 1975.
(O.R.'s to fix their donation to this publication.)
10. Any other business.

The School in 1975

There are now 230 pupils at Rendcomb and the intention is to increase the numbers to about 250.

As most of you will know, the governors wanted the school to have a coeducational sixth form, following the practice of some other boarding schools. This has now been in operation for three years with 25 girls in the sixth form. I think everyone would agree that the scheme has been a success, although naturally it has changed the character of the school in various ways.

There are 80 pupils in the sixth forms at present. In the middle school each form is divided into two, there being an average of 35 in each year. The junior forms total 50.

"Setting" has been introduced in French, physics and chemistry. From the fourth year boys may opt for German or biology, Latin or geography. Little change has been made to the sixth form courses, apart from the addition of German and economic and public affairs as 'A' level courses.

Sport

The annual cricket match against the school was held on July 6th. The result was a draw.

Old Rendcombians - 88 (R. Edy 22)

The School - 81 for 4

The team was: Green, D. Tyler, Gilchrist, Edy, J. Webb, Callaghan, A. Hillier, Glennie, Law, Robbins, J. Gray
The match was followed by an excellent buffet, thanks once again to Mrs. Mezo and her staff.

At the rugby match on December 9th, the old boys won 12-10.

Team: T, Stroud, D. Pearce, A. Pearce, J. Wilford, N. Wilford, Jordan, M. Brown, Whiteside, J. Tyler, J. Gray, Liddley, R. Morris, Denley, Simmons, Bircher.

The hockey match, on March 22nd, was won 2-0 by the school.

Team: Denley, Whiteside, Law, Wittering, Powell, Glennie, R. Morris, Wiggall, Liddley, J. Gray, A. Pearce,
A rather depleted 2nd XI also took to the field.

Church Bells

Bell-ringers amongst O.R.'s may be interested to know that the church bells are shortly to be re-hung at a cost of £2,000. A considerable sum has already been raised towards this total, thanks to generous donations and a fete last summer. Further donations from past ringers would, of course, be most welcome and should be sent to Mrs. K.L. James at The Garden House, Rendcomb.

Informal Talks by O.R.'s

We are always very pleased to hear from any O.R.'s who would be interested in talking informally to groups of fifth and sixth formers about their careers, professions etc. Anyone able to help in this way is asked to contact Mr. R. Kelsey at the school.

Next Reunion

The cricket match against the school will be on July 5th. We hope there will be a good attendance of O.R.'s for this and also for the A.G.M. and buffet which follow the match.

There will also be a girls' tennis match on this date.

The J.H. Simpson Memorial Trust

A fund was started in 1960 to provide a memorial to the first headmaster. The fund was registered as a charitable trust in order to take advantage of the available tax concessions. The present trustees of the fund are:

| | |
|--|--|
| The headmaster - ex. officio: | Mr. R. M. Medill |
| The librarian - ex. officio: | Mr. D. de G. Sells |
| A member of the staff appointed by the headmaster: | Mr. W.J.D. White |
| The president of the O.R. society - ex officio: | Mr. J.B. Fell |
| Two members appointed by the O.R. society: | Mrs. M. Drake (daughter of Mr. J.H. Simpson) |
| | Mr. P.J. Callaghan |

The trustees elect the chairman, secretary and treasurer. The current holders of these offices are:-

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman: | Mr. R.M. Medill |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | Mr. J.B. Fell |

It was agreed at an early meeting of the trustees that money subscribed should be used in the first place to provide a tangible memorial in the college and the remainder invested to give income that could be used for purposes connected with the college library. The first purpose was achieved by the donation of an oak lectern for the assembly hall and five framed prints for the library, at a total cost of about £170. Contributions from investment income for library purposes to date have consisted of various grants for books totalling about £140 and one of the most recent sets of oak bookshelves costing about £115.

Financial Summary

Present investments and their approximate value are:-

| | |
|---|-------------|
| £110 I.C.I. Ordinary Stock | £235 |
| 180 units M. & G. Charifund | £176 |
| £455 Newham Corporation 6.75% Loan Stock 1975 | <u>£455</u> |
| | £866 |
| Midland Bank, Cirencester deposit a/c | £200 |
| Current Account, approx. | £100 |

Investment income for 1974 was approximately £70.

At the last meeting of the trustees on 11th February 1975 it was agreed to make a contribution of £100 from spendable income to help with the publication costs of the 'History of Rendcomb College'.

Obituary

Most O.R.'s will have learnt, with great sorrow, of the deaths in 1974 of Mrs. Freda Lee-Browne and of Mr. J.C. James, both of whom devoted such a large part of their lives to Rendcomb. A widely representative selection of old boys was present at the funerals and also at the memorial service for John James.

We sadly announce the death of Gerald Harrison (known to his friends here as 'G'), aged 32, who left Rendcomb in 1960 with an English scholarship to Queen's College, Cambridge. He was killed in a road accident in Yugoslavia last August and is survived by his wife, injured in the accident, and his two children.

We learnt in January of the tragic death of Chansil Yuvaboon (1968 - 73) shortly after Christmas. He was involved in a severe car accident in Bangkok, in which his brother, Tansit (1965-67), was also seriously injured.

Old Rendcombian News

This section contains some of the information that has come to us during the past year.

J.D. Painter (1944 - 52) has recently been appointed lecturer in history at Weymouth College of Education.

P.N.W. Osborne (1962 - 64) is a partner in a quantity surveying firm in Malawi. He visited the school recently.

David Tovey (1956 - 64) is a sales representative in the Bristol area for a firm marketing office furniture.

Mark Collins (1963 - 70) has a research fellowship at Imperial College, London, and has recently been to the Cameroons to study termites.

Robert Arkell (1963 - 70) is with Sankey G.K.N. at Wolverhampton.

Edward Yates (1962 - 70) is a petroleum geologist in the North Sea.

Richard Verge (1958 - 65) is now back in England after two years in Singapore. He is still in the civil service.

Martin Lee-Browne is now a lieutenant-colonel and has been awarded an O.B.E.

David Tyler (1965 - 70) is with Unilever as a management trainee. His brother **Jonathan** (1965 - 72) is studying business management at Lanchester Polytechnic and is active in judo circles.

Peter Treasure (1966 - 71) has passed his O.N.D. in business studies and is at Simpson's (Piccadilly).

Andrew Thompson (1965 - 71), now at Birmingham University, visited us last year and gave news of his brothers. **Alec** (1960 - 67) is teaching in Sheffield and **Haydn** (1963 - 70) is doing social work.

Nigel Ball (1967 - 72) writes to say that he has now completed a year with Debenhams as a management trainee and is enjoying his job.

Roland Clarke (1970 - 72) is a sub-editor of "Field".

Michael Garland-Collins (1967 - 72) sent a long account of his life at the Central School of Drama. The course, he says, is hard work, hectic but thoroughly rewarding. He certainly appears to have plenty of variety, ranging from movement, voice production and studying Restoration plays to performing in two plays a term, with the "pleasures" of radio and television to come.

Nicholas Hillier (1965 - 70) has graduated from Exeter University and is now studying for the Bar.

Nigel Moot (1964 - 70) is now married and working for Whitbread as a quality controller.

Antony Rose (1965 - 71) is reading medicine at Liverpool University and must be the first O.R. to be elected president of Liverpool University Motor Cycle Club!

David Toresen (1964 - 71) writes to say that he abandoned Bangor University and is now at the Central London Polytechnic to begin a 3-year B.A. photographic arts course, specialising in film work.

D.G. Vaisey (1945 - 54) has written the introduction to a reproduction of the stock-book of the Victorian Bristol printers E.S. and A. Robinson, in conjunction with a colleague. He has also had published by Blackwells, a handbook for local historians in Oxfordshire.

K.M. Shephard (1944 - 47) was producer of a programme on Florence in the 'Chronicle' Series on BBC2 last December.

J.C. Middleton Murry (1936 - 44) had his autobiography, "One Hand Clapping", published by Gollancz in January. This contains various reminiscences of Rendcomb. He has also written science fiction under the pseudonym of Richard Cowper.

Christopher Sidgwick (1929 - 33) now lives in Brussels. His latest publication was "Greece", a guide book, published by Letts in 1969.

David Mabberley (1959 - 66) has been appointed Druce Fellow in Public Taxonomy at the Botany School, Oxford.

Colin Mabberley (1961 - 69) has been interviewed on radio by Jack de Manio in the "Jack de Manio Precisely" programme, about his work as director of the Bear Garden Museum of Elizabethan Theatre, London. Unfortunately, no-one at Rendcomb was able to hear the programme.

Hugh Gough (1955 - 62) is a lecturer in history at University College, Dublin. He has recently been awarded his D.Phil.(Oxford) for work on the French Revolution. He writes to say that he is married and has a two-year-old son. He has published a history text book: "Europe 1763-1970" with Longmans.

Howard Gough (1949 - 57) lives in Burton-on-Trent, is married and has four children. He is a director of a small building firm.

Paul Chanin (1961 - 67) is to head a two-year nationwide study to save the otter from extinction. He was described in the Daily Telegraph as "an expert on aquatic animals". He is based at Exeter University.

Martin Butlin (1940 - 47) has been keeper of the British Collection at the Tate Gallery since 1967. He has published various studies on Turner and has been much involved in preparing the Turner Exhibition at the Royal Academy. His wife has also contributed to this by her research into contemporary reviews of Turner's paintings. He has also advised on the selection of works by William Blake for an exhibition in Germany organised by the British Council.

Dick Field (1924 - 31) has recently edited, with John Newick, "The Study of Education and Art", published by Routledge and Kegan Paul. He has previously published several other works on this subject.

Martin C. Jones (1954 - 60) is now a partner in an established firm of Gloucester solicitors.

Philip W. Taylor (1962 - 68) graduated from Exeter University and is now with Davey Son & Jones, Solicitors of Cirencester.

Richard Rolt (1967 - 72) started at Durham University this year.

Duncan Black (1963 - 69) completed his course at Loughborough in 1973 and writes from Cairo where he is teaching English to foreigners at the American University. After leaving Loughborough, he joined a theatre group which involved, apart from acting, working in a health food restaurant next to St. Paul's and also on a building site to raise money. He then attended a peace festival in Houston, Texas, which he says was an amazing experience, allowing him to meet people from all over the world. Following this he worked as a porter at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and then as an occupational therapist in a Mental Hospital. After travelling around Europe and managing to see a production of "Antigone" at Epidauros, he eventually reached Cairo where he is following an Indian Guru!

Denis Jenner (1965 - 72) reports that he is happy and prosperous with Eagle Star Insurance.

Angus Robertson (1965 - 72) has left the B.B.C. and is now assistant editor of "Video" in Croydon.

Robert Morris (1967 - 72) is a financial advisor with Machel Mills Associates in London.

Douglas Dakin (1920 - 26) retired in September 1974, having previously been vice-master of Birkbeck College, London, and having held the chair of history there. Since his retirement he has been made an Honorary Fellow of Birkbeck and an Emeritus Professor of London University. He continues to be Dean of the College of Preceptors (a position which he has held for six years and which J.H. Simpson once held) and is also an editor of the First Series of British Documents on Foreign Policy 1919 - 1939.

Peter de Jongh (1946 - 52) has been appointed headmaster of Lathallan Preparatory School, Montrose.

News of Recent Leavers

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Maxine Bauer | North Glos. Technical College – Social Welfare Course. |
| Ruth Beckett | Aberdeen University - Zoology |
| David Bell | Durham University - Physics (1975) |
| Clare Bourne | Durham University - Maths & Economics |
| Caroline Brett | Bristol University - Botany/Zoology (1975) |
| Stephen Bushell | Avon Council |
| Michael Findlay | Oxford Polytechnic - B.A. Course (History) |
| Elaine Finney | Bristol University - Biochemistry |
| Kathy Harmon | Leeds University - Maths/Chemistry/Computer Science |
| Teta Hennessy | Leeds University - Psychology (1975) |
| Andrew Jenkins | Pembroke College, Oxford - Chemistry (1975) |
| Jonathan Lane | Reading University - Chemistry |
| William Hall | Bangor University - Agricultural Botany (1975) |
| Bruce Mann | Sheffield University - Civil Engineering (1975) |
| Christine Marsack | S.R.N. |
| Crispin Partridge | Sussex University - European Studies |
| Donald Pearce | Royal Agricultural College (1975) |
| Victoria Penney | Durham University - Persian (1975) |
| Sarah Pink | Roehampton Teachers' Training College |
| Nigel Powell | Cardiff University - Electrical Engineering |
| Nicholas Roberts | Cardiff University - Economics & Business Studies (1975) |
| Philip Smith | Liverpool University - Medical Sciences |
| Susan Stanhope | Leicester Teachers' Training College (Art and English) |
| Timothy Stroud | Oxford Polytechnic - Business Studies, B.A. Course |
| Jonathan Whiteside | University of Keele - International Politics |
| Derek Wiggall | Management Trainee, Cavendish House, Cheltenham. |
| Christopher Higgins | Durham University - Zoology |
| Michael Denley | High Wycombe College of Technology, School of Furniture and Design. |

OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY RULES - July 1975

1. Name: The Society shall be called the Old Rendcombian Society.
2. Membership: The following persons shall be eligible to become members:
 - a. Headmasters of the college.
 - b. Members of the college staff who shall have been on the staff for at least 3 years.
 - c. Persons (hereinafter called P.R.s) who were scholars at the college for not less than one academic year after the term or vacation in which they became 14 years old.
3. Meetings:
 - a. There shall be held each calendar year an annual general meeting (AGM) at the college.
 - b. Any other meeting shall be called a special general meeting.
 - c. A quorum of any general meeting shall be fifteen members.
4. Officers: These shall be: President, Treasurer, Chairman, Sports secretary, Vice-chairman, Hon. Auditor, Hon. secretary
 - a. All officers shall be elected at the AGM and shall hold office for three years, with the exception of the president who shall be elected for a period of five years.
 - b. All officers shall immediately be eligible for re-election.
5. Committee:
 - a. The management of the society shall be vested in a committee consisting of the officers and any other member elected at an AGM.
 - b. A quorum at a meeting of this committee shall be two members, of whom the president or secretary shall be one, and the chairman or treasurer the other.
 - c. The committee may co-opt another member to fill a vacancy.
6. Subscriptions: The life subscription shall be £10.00.
7. The funds of the society:
 - a. The society's financial year shall end March 31st.
 - b. The Hon. treasurer shall present audited accounts to the AGM following the year end.
 - c. The Hon. treasurer and the Hon. auditor shall have power to invest in such securities as they shall choose in consultation with the society's bankers.
 - d. The Hon. secretary shall be paid an honorarium of £10.00 p.a.
 - e. The Sports secretary shall be paid an honorarium of £10.00 p.a.
8. Annual dinner: One dinner will be arranged by the secretary in each calendar year. If possible, this should take place on the day of the AGM, at the college.
9. The register: A register will be maintained by the secretary, and published at the request of an AGM. It will contain names and addresses of all members, and the dates of entry to and leaving from the college.
10. Voting: A simple majority at a meeting (refer rule 3) is required. to pass a resolution. The chairman shall have a casting vote. Any member may demand a poll.
11. Alteration of rules: These rules shall be alterable only by a proposal passed in accordance with Rule 10.