

# **Old Rendcombian Society**

## **NEWSLETTER**



QUO LUX DUCIT

## **MAY 1976**

**2nd ISSUE**

Editor  
W.J.D. WHITE  
P.J.CALLAGHAN

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### **A Message from Your President**

I should like to open this letter by saying how much I appreciate the honour of being elected your president. This took place at the 1974 a.g.m. while I was on a visit to Canada, leaving me in ignorance of your action for some months afterwards. However, I did attempt to express the surprise and pleasure which the news gave me to those attending the 1975 meeting.

I should also like to take this opportunity to say a very warm thank you to all who contributed so generously to my farewell presentation, especially those whom I was unable to thank personally at the a.g.m.

As most of you know I have spent the whole of my working life, apart from the war years, in Rendcomb. In many ways I feel that the major part of my education really began when I came here and has continued ever since. For this I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our founder who made it possible and to the headmasters, staff and pupils who put up with my shortcomings and contributed so much in so many different ways to my understanding.

Rendcomb is now very different from the community which I joined in 1934. This was inevitable and is no cause for regret: no living institution can remain healthy in stagnation. I believe most O.R.'s will agree with me that the developments have been along the right lines to leave the college in a position where it can continue to make a really worthwhile contribution to our society. You must also be aware of the pressures being put on every form of independent education. What you may not all realise is what an important role can be played in the life and development of a school by a really strong association of former members. There are of course quite a number of us who already take a lively interest in college affairs but I feel that there is an opportunity for more to be done.

I am not quite sure what duties you expect of your president but what I should most like to see during my term of office is a great increase in the cooperation between the O.R. society and the college. Please put forward any ideas you may have on this subject.

Yours sincerely,  
Jack Fell.

### **The Newsletter**

It was decided at the A.G.M. last July that the annual newsletter should continue in its present form at least for one more year, as it had generally been well received.

We apologise to those O.R.'s who failed to get a copy of last year's newsletter. The subscription list and address list needed to be brought up to date and we hope that there will be fewer errors this year. A change of address form can be found at the end of the letter.

### **A History of Rendcomb College 1920-1970**

The college governors have sponsored the publication of an account of the foundation and first fifty years of the college, printed by the Alden Press. Copies of this history written by C.H.C. Osborne and J.C. James, and completed by K.L. James, will be on sale from May 1st at £3.00 each. The book contains more than fifty photographs, is bound in dark blue cloth, and has an attractive dustjacket.

It is hoped that many O.R.'s will buy copies. These will be on sale locally at The Promenade Bookshop, Paul Weller's Bookshop, and at Blackwells, or they may be obtained from Mr. W.J.D. White at the college or from Mrs James at The Garden House, Rendcomb. Cheques should be made out to Rendcomb College Memorial Volume Account. Please add 50p for post and packing.

This has been a long term project, delayed inevitably by the deaths of the two main authors. It is offered to old Rendcombians with apologies for shortcomings, in the hope that it will revive agreeable memories.

## **Society Officers 1975-76**

President:	J.B. Fell
Chairman:	J. Gilchrist (1944-51)
Secretary:	P.J. Callaghan (1956-61)
Treasurer:	J.M. Webb (1954-63)
Rugby Secretary:	G.B. Jordan (1966-73) Pickwick Farm, Berkeley, Glos.
Hockey Secretary:	F.R. Glennie (1959-67) 4 Sands Close, Cumnor, Oxford. Tel: Cumnor 2403
Cricket Secretary:	R.J. Edy (1959-67) 59 Orchard Place, Harvington, Evesham, Worcs. Tel: Harvington 635
School Representative:	W.J.D. White.

## **Sport**

The cricket match against the school was held on July 5th. The result was a draw.

School: 121 for 8 declared; O.R.s 65 for 8.

Team: Gilchrist, Callaghan, Whiteside, J. Gray, D. Pearce, J. Webb, D. Tyler, Stallard, Glennie, Edy, N. Green.

The match was again followed by an excellent buffet provided by Mrs. Mezo and her staff.

The rugger match on December 13th was a convincing victory for the old boys - 30 - 0.

Team: N. Willford, T. Willford, Barling, A. Pearce, D. Pearce, R. Roberts, N. Roberts, J. Tyler, Bircher, J. Millard, Jordan, Denley, J. Stroud, Whiteside, J. Gray.

The O.R.'s fielded two hockey teams against the school on March 27th.

1st XI: Lawson, Taylor G., Powell, Glennie, Whiteside, R. Morris, P. Rose, A. Hillier, Medhurst, Stuckey, D. Pearce. Won 4 - 0.

2nd XI: Pendell, Shellswell, Green, Whittering, Pritchett, Edy, Jenkins, D. Mackonochie, Lamphee, A. Rose, Clarke, Won 1 - 0.

The sports secretaries are always glad to hear from O.R.s who want to play in any matches.

## **Next Reunion**

The annual cricket match will be on July 10th. We hope that O.R.'s will support this, and also come to the a.g.m. and buffet in the evening.

There will also be a girls' tennis match on July 10th.

## **At Rendcomb**

The following O.R.s have sons or daughters at Rendcomb this year:

J. Gilchrist; T. Walters; J. Sinclair; J.R. Smith; N.J. Miles; J.M. Faulks; R. Brain.

## **The School And its Accommodation**

It may be of interest to those old Rendcombians who have not visited Rendcomb for some time, to know what changes have been made to accommodate the increase in numbers in the school (now 240).

There are three boarding houses, apart from the main college building. The Old Rectory was converted into the Junior House (1st and 2nd forms) in 1966. The sixth form house (Park House) beyond the swimming pool, was opened in 1973 to accommodate 25 girls, and the boys of the second year sixth. A new house for the third year will come into operation this summer - this is in the area behind the old cottages (No.s 1 and 2), now

demolished. One of the flats in the Stable Block contains dormitories for some third years as well. In the main building, there are 27 study-bedrooms, built in 1963, over the old kitchen wing, and studies for 40 boys over the old 'Manual' area. In 1967, a new block was finished to accommodate the woodwork, art and music departments, together with some classrooms. This is on the back drive in the old 'Jungle' area. The headmaster's house was built in 1962, thus allowing the accommodation of the flat to be available for classrooms, common rooms and dormitories. The spacious first-floor washroom was converted into a classroom two years ago, the baths being put in the washroom area. On the ground floor, the old history room is now a junior dining room; the staff common room has been in the nether regions of the college (the old wash-up) for ten years. The 'Small Classroom' is the secretary's office. 'Woolton' was abandoned as the housekeeper's office on Miss Babington's departure and became firstly a telephone room and then was converted into a ladies cloakroom. The name, however, is still vaguely used to refer to the telephone kiosk in the old indoor games cupboard. The 'Music Room' was added to the dining room twelve years ago, when 'Big School' became an assembly hall. The 'maids sitting room' and 'Still Room' form a language laboratory.

### **Obituary**

#### **L.C. Schiller**

Members of the first generation of Old Rendcombians will be grieved to learn of the death of Lionel Schiller. He came to the college a few months after it opened in 1920, to teach mathematics, and left to become H.M. Inspector of Primary Schools. He was often to be seen at O.R. reunions.

We have also learnt with regret of the death of **B.J. Brooks** (1920 - 23), one of the original twelve pupils. He served for 37 years in the R.A.F., retiring in 1958 with the rank of squadron leader. In informing us of his death his wife writes: "Bernard was so proud of his school, and I have been with him many times to different things - the last being the big anniversary luncheon a few years ago".

### **Old Rendcombian News**

This section contains some of the news sent to us during the past year. Please continue to send us information about your activities or about those of any O.R.'s whom you meet.

**Norman Slade** (1929 - 36) writes to say that he was in the Sudan 1942 - 55 with Military and Civil Medical Services, and is now a consultant urologist with Bristol Hospitals.

**John Marshall** (1955 - 63) is married with one son and is contracts manager for a civil engineering company responsible for a number of contracts including motorways, marine works, drainage and sewage schemes.

**Donald D. Christie** (1922 - 25) has retired and now lives in Bournemouth where he is doing some private tuition in French.

**Christopher Handoll** (1950 - 58) is Principal Scientific Officer, North Western Forensic Science Laboratory, Chorley, Lancs.

**R.F. Butler** (1922 - 27) is retired and lives in Winscombe, Avon.

**N.A. Perkins** (1924 - 31) retired in 1974 after being at Post Office Headquarters. He is president of the Middlesex County Chess Association.

**P.S.W. Beck** (1941 - 45) is teaching art history at Bath Technical College, where he has been since 1960. He specializes in book illustration of historical subjects with the Roundwood Press Civil War Series.

**J.C. Bass** (1955 - 63) works as an economic advisor with the Civil Aviation Authority. He is married with two children and seemed in very good form at the O.R. Cricket match in July.

**C.J. Gough** (1920 -26) has retired after 38 years as a senior lecturer in creative design at Loughborough. He has returned to live in Winchcombe.

**J.G. Collett** (1927 - 30) lives in Yelverton, Devon, and was chairman of the Plymouth Incorporated Chamber of Trade and Commerce in 1970.

**Robin Bowen** (1963 - 70) has just completed his L.L.B. (London). He is now at the College of Law in Chester where he is studying for his solicitor's qualifying exams. He spent last summer working in a small hotel at St. Jean Cap Ferrat.

**J.G.A. Dainty** (1951 - 55) had a number of jobs at the start of his career including paint warehouseman, wine shop assistant, probation hostel warden and bookseller. For the past five years he has been with Thomas Cook Ltd. as a travel salesman. He finds the work interesting and varied, if at times, frustrating and pressurized. His father was structural consultant engineer for the new sixth form house and he assures O.R.'s that the foundations are sound!

**V.D. Page** (1925 - 31) has recently returned to Australia as manager, Transformer Division, G.E.C., Heavy Engineering Dept. in Brisbane.

**R.G. Betterton** (1921 - 25) has visited the school frequently and we are again most grateful to him for the gift of a number of trees and shrubs which he has planted in the grounds.

**William Tomlinson** (1966 - 71) was temporarily in charge of a pub at Northleach in the autumn, working for Trophy Taverns. He hopes to be given a more permanent position in the firm shortly.

**Mark Fisher** (1966 - 70) is thoroughly enjoying life in the merchant navy and has been able to visit many parts of the world.

**Martin Brown** (1966 - 72) is in his last year at Birmingham reading civil engineering. He has also been learning to fly with the university air squadron. He writes that **Dennis Jenner** (1965 - 72) is now at Warwick University.

**Robert Brown** (1963 - 70), brother of Martin, is engaged in postgraduate research at Birmingham.

**John Mitchison** (1957 - 63) is married with two children. He is area sales manager, West Midlands and South Wales, with Redland Roof Tiles Ltd.

**Nicholas Wapshott** (1963 - 70) has been an assistant editor with the 'Scotsman' since leaving university.

**Christopher Jefferies** (1957 - 65) is with the Road Transport Training Board. Earlier in his career he spent some time doing V.S.O. work in East Africa. Until two years ago he played regularly for the Wasps 1st XV.

**Neil Johnson** (1964 - 71) has qualified at St. Thomas's, and has a further year to do there before taking up his commission in the army.

**Hartley Moore** (1964 - 71) has graduated and is with Edmund Nuttall 'tunnelling under the Tees', as he says, all in connection with North Sea oil.

**Richard Hunt** (1959 - 67) has been with the Forte group of Trust Houses and is at present based in Hertfordshire. He seems to be enjoying life in the hotel industry.

**Peter Hamnett** (1959 - 67) called in to see us in the autumn, on his honeymoon! He is working for a London firm of heating and insulation specialists.

**Anthony Hillier** (1963 - 68) has left the army and is with an insurance company.

**Andrew Stafford** (1966 - 1971) graduated from Trinity College, Oxford, last July, and is in the diplomatic service.

**Owen Rhys** (1964 - 70) also graduated from Oxford last July and is now with the National Westminster Bank.

**Richard Law** (1964 - 70) graduated from Exeter College, Oxford last July and writes to say that he is thoroughly enjoying the start of his career as an accountant with a London firm. He finds the work interesting

and varied.

We learn that **Phillip Graham** (1966 - 71) is playing golf for Durham University.

**Adrian Patrick** (1963 - 70) wrote in August as follows from the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company: "Having graduated with a 2:1 in mining engineering from the Royal School of Mining, I joined B.P. as a petroleum engineer. On doing this, I was posted overseas to Abu Dhabi on secondment to ADPC. This is where I shall be for a year. Having gone through an initial unsettled period, being not quite sure whether I should have stayed in hard rock mining, etc., I now think I have chosen a materially and financially rewarding career. Basically I have been running around the desert, spending a large percentage of time on drilling rigs, carrying out the various duties of a rig petroleum engineer. Having stood 18 months here as a bachelor I couldn't stand any more, so last April I got married. My wife, whom I met at college, is a junior teacher and has a job at the local English school. At present she is still getting used to Abu Dhabi (and me probably!), but seems to be reasonably settled. Being mid-summer at present (120°F some days) she longs for U.K. and its rain. I now spend most of my time in the office on the design, development and planning stages of drilling and production. Later this year I shall go into reservoir engineering, thus giving me good all round experience. **Trevor** (1963 - 70) has also just gone into the oilfield business. He is with Santa Fe (U.K.) working as an electronics technician on a rig supply barge in the North Sea, but I doubt if it's long term, He works four weeks offshore, twelve hour shifts, and gets one week off. However, he is paid a very handsome salary!

**William Nesham** (1965 - 70) has also been working for an American drilling company in the North Sea.

**John Sime** (1939 - 42) featured in a long article in the "Toronto Star" last May. He claims, according to the report, that he is not an empire builder, but has put together a cultural empire of some size. It includes a first class art school, a theatre, several bookshops and part-time classes in everything from modern dance to photography. He is head of the Three Schools of Art in Toronto. (Acknowledgements to the Toronto Star 17 Mar. '75 -Ed.)

**P.G.Auden** (1949 - 58) is working with British Rail.

**Gerard Benson** (Chagrin) (1944 - 50). The competition in the 'New Statesman' last November was set by him. He also had an article in the same number on the reception given to the Barrow Poets (of which he is one) in Belfast.

**Michael Garland-Collins** (1967 - 72) has recently completed his training at the Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art (not at the Central School of Drama - apologies Ed.)

**J.C. Murray** (1936 - 44) Writing as Richard Cowper he has recently had a book of short stories, *The Custodians*, published by Gollancz.

**K.M. Shephard** (1944 - 47) As a producer of *Chronicle* on BBC 2, he was responsible for a programme on the historian Gibbon which was intended to mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of the 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. He also came down to Rendcomb to lecture to the school on the making of a T.V. documentary last autumn.

**Gerald Harrison** (1953 - 60) Ruskin College, Oxford, have decided to instigate an annual lecture in memory of Gerald Harrison, formerly a lecturer at the College, who was killed in an accident in Yugoslavia in 1974. The first lecture, given by Raymond Williams of Cambridge last November, was attended by many of G.'s friends and former pupils. Ruskin are opening a fund to finance the expenses of the lectures and some of G.'s friends may care to contribute to this.

**F. Herrman** (1947 - 50) No doubt some of his contemporaries have admired his photography in the Sunday Times!

**D.G.Vaisey** (1945 - 54) has recently been appointed Keeper of the Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and has been made a fellow of Exeter College, by special election.

**N. Walter** (1945 - 52) attacked the phenomenal performances of Yuri Geller with convincing acrimony in a letter read on Radio 4 recently, writing as a member of the Rationalist Society.

**Bruce Mann** (1967 - 74) wrote enthusiastically of his first term at Sheffield University. He says: "So far, I have covered very little new in the way of theory, although a lot of what I have done has given me a better understanding of the fundamentals. Practical work is completely different. I have joined the Officer Training Corps which gives me varied and exciting exercises on Wednesday afternoons and some weekends. I hope to take part in the High Peak Marathon in 10 days time".

**M.H. Fisher** (1936 - 40) Is editor of the *Financial Times* and came to Rendcomb to lecture to the sixth form last year.

**Jonathan Fletcher** (1968 - 75) writes from Birmingham where he is working with the Post Office before taking up a Post Office Studentship at St. John's College, Oxford, in October 1976. He says the academic course he is on should stand him in good stead in the technical field, though, being more advanced than we ever were at Rendcomb, it is very hard work!

**Robert Edy** (1959 - 67) has left Huish's, Taunton, and is now on the staff of Prince Henry's, Evesham.

**Christine Marsack** (1972 - 74) is at Westminster Hospital where she is studying to be an S.R.N.

**Sally Blyth** (1973 - 75) is enjoying her course at Royal Holloway College. She often meets Lilli Schnitzer and Sarah Oughton and other O.R.'s when visiting Oxford.

**Charlotte Brain** (1973 - 75) has settled down well at St. John's College, York.

**Sandy MacGinnis** (1973 - 75) is studying Russian and Italian with German at the Oxford Polytechnic. When she last wrote she said she was busy decorating the flat she is sharing with three other students.

**Michael Miles** (1943 - 50) has been manager of the British Insurance Group in Tokyo since February 1975. Since 1957 he has lived in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Rhodesia. His son Nicholas is at Rendcomb.

**Peter Little** (1960 - 67) has just written about his activities since he left Rendcomb, of which the following is an extract: "In January 1968 I accepted an offer from Bristol university to read joint honours botany and zoology. At Bristol I met with unexpected success, graduating in 1971 with a 1st class hon. BSc. in botany and zoology, having won an undergraduate scholarship. On graduating I was awarded the Rose Bracher Memorial Prize. I then stayed on in the botany department of Bristol University where I did research for 3 years into the effects of heavy metal pollution around the smelting works at Avonmouth. I was awarded my Ph.D. in June 1974 and took up a three year post doctoral research fellowship at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, in the environmental and medical sciences division. After just under two years of this fellowship, I have now (April 1976) been taken onto the permanent staff at Harwell. In August 1973 I got married, my wife being a physiotherapist, and in July '74 we bought a house in Grove, near Wantage.

**Clare Bourne** (1972 - 74) is at Durham University and is treasurer of the J.C.R. She often sees Victoria Penney who recommends the course in Persian at Durham.

**Elaine Finney** (1972 - 74) is in her second year at Bristol. She spent the summer with **Nicky Roberts** (1969 - 74) in Europe. They wrote from France to say that they were earning a fair amount of money picking flowers off maize. They intended to go on to visit Greece and Italy. This year they hope to go to the Sudan.

**Ruth Beckett** (1972 - 74) is in her second year at Aberdeen University and is enjoying life there very much.

**Sarah Oughton** (1973 - 75) is at the London Polytechnic. She finds London hectic and misses the country.

**Catherine Ledger** (1973 - 75) is now living in Switzerland and is now a member of the house staff of Aiglon College. She says that most of the upper VIth are older than she is and, that compared with them, she is a paragon of virtue. In her spare time she enjoys skiing. She plans to visit Turkey in March and, in the summer, to go to Perugia and Greece with **Sue Marston**.

**Fraser Glennie** (1959 - 67) has been with Hobbs and Chambers, estate agents, at Fairford for some time. He has now passed the final part of his exams and is a fully fledged A.R.I.C.S.

**A.G.B. Wallace** (1949 - 56) writes to say that he is returning for a holiday in July. He has been an English



teacher for the last six years at Lakefield District Secondary School, after graduating at the University of Toronto in 1969. He is married with two daughters.

**Deborah Yates** (1973 - 75) is now at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, doing a six month course on biological/medical subjects.

**Geoffrey Smith** (1960 - 67) After a student apprenticeship with the Dowty Group started in 1967, he became programme controller with Dowty Fuel Systems 1972 - 74. In 1974 he became works manager with Dowty Hydraulic Units. He left Dowty in 1975 to take up a position at Bryce Berger Ltd., Gloucester, as group projects manager. He is responsible for the manufacture of steel camshafts for the heavy diesel market.

**Richard Fry** (1967 - 72) is a dental technician in the R.A.F., stationed in Buckinghamshire. He has played hockey for the R.A.F. under 21 team.

Reports from two other old Rendcombian climbers are worth recounting:-

Last Easter **Antony Pitt** (1967 - 73) came across a large school party which was totally unequipped for the icy conditions that were prevailing on the Glyder tops in Snowdonia. A boy had slipped down a snow slope and, though unhurt, was stuck in a dangerously exposed position, unable to be reached safely by the leaders of his party. Antony, correctly equipped, was able to retrieve the boy and shepherd the party safely over the remaining summit and down to easier ground.

In January, **David Bell** (1967 - 74) walking alone in the Lake District in bad weather, found a boy with exposure, whose companions were trying to keep him walking - exactly the wrong procedure in the circumstances. David made them help him to carry the boy to the nearest shelter, and then himself ran down the mountainside to alert the Ambleside mountain rescue team.

In both instances, their prompt, decisive, and correct action certainly prevented a more serious situation from developing, and quite probably saved life.

### News of Recent Leavers

Isobel Bartlett	Medical School (1976)
Sally Blyth	Royal Holloway College (history)
Nigel Bradbury	St. Catherine's College, Oxford (1976)
Charlotte Brain	University of Leeds (biochemistry)
Norman Crowe	University of Leeds (accountancy)
Jonathan Dixon	Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Andrea Don	St. Andrew's University (biochemistry)
Richard Evans	University of Leeds (history)
Jonathan Fletcher	St. John's College, Oxford (elec.eng.) 1976.
Annabel Goodenough	Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (agriculture)
Stuart Honeyball	Sheffield University (maths) 1976
Henrietta Hooper	Newnham College, Cambridge (medicine)
Michael James	University of Leeds (social sciences)
Desmond Knox	Hatfield Polytechnic (general arts degree) 1976
Peter Lace	Durham University (law) 1976
Phillip Lamphee	Trinity College, Oxford (PPE) 1976
Catherine Ledger	University of Sussex (humanities) 1976
Sandy MacGinnis	Oxford Polytechnic (bilingual secretarial course)
Suzanne Marston	Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (English) 1976
Clive Mathias	Exeter University (law)
Andrew Medhurst	Banking
Peter Millard	University of Leeds (marine biology)
Sarah Oughton	City of London Polytechnic (bilingual secretarial course)
Steven Pendell	Exeter University (law)
Bruce Pritchett	University of Manchester (accountancy)
Stephen Bolt (Reason)	Leicester University (biology)
Paul Rose	Hertford College, Oxford (history) 1976
Peter Sayers	University of Bath (maths)
Lilli Schnitzer	Secretarial Course in South Africa
Ian Taylor	Sound Recordist

Robert Weston	Southampton University (philosophy) 1976
Jackie Wilson	Newcastle University (accountancy)
Deborah Yates	Newnham College, Cambridge 1976
Simon Fear	Hereford Technical College
Nigel Raymont	Solihull Technical College
Martin Hamer	Worcester Technical College
Nicholas Smith	Welbeck College

**List of Addresses wanted - April 1976**

Meadows B.J.	Stone N.C.	Walker K.A.
Greenway W.T.	Draper J.D.	Wragg L.de V.
Richardson D.C.	Page D.R.	Rayner P.V.
Wheeler J.R.	Semple T.D.A.	Milam P.R.
Abbott A.W.F.	Browne J.B.R.	Denny R.B.
Selby H.H.	Benbow T.L.H.	Heppleston A.D.
Magor A.C.	Ferguson M.H.	Hillier A.E.
Baillie P.	Richardson C.C.	Granston-Richards F.S.
Sterry J.G.		