

# **Old Rendcombian Society**

## **NEWSLETTER**



**MAY 2008**

**34th ISSUE**

Editor  
W.J.D. WHITE

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## Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 1st July 2007 the following officers were elected:-

President:	Bill White (staff 1961-97)
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-chairman:	Fiona Burge (1988-90)
Secretary:	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: (01285) 658627 Fax: (01285) 658717 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer / school rep:	Chris Wood (1965-71; staff: 1976-) 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos., GL54 3JF Tel: (01451) 860871 e-mail: woodc@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk
Committee members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Julian Comrie (1946-54) Alex Brealy (1980-87; staff 1994-) Patrick Boydell (1988-95) Tommy Lait (1996-2003)
Hon. auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter editor:	Bill White (staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos., GL54 3JG Tel: (01451) 860943
Newsletter editor from 2008:	Richard Tudor The Millstone, Kempford, Cirencester, GL7 4EY e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

## Minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting

Held on 1st July 2007 at Rendcomb College

Present: Phil Griffiths (1940-43), Mike Miles (1943-51), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Neil Johnson (1964-70), Luke Gunner (1998-05), Sam Gunner (1996-03), Duncan Bond (1996-03), Colin Hitchcock (1971-78), Gerry Holden (headmaster 1999-) Chris Wood (1965-71, staff 1976-), David Williams (1966-71), Colin Burden (staff 1963-97), Alex Brealy (1980-87 staff 1994-), Phil Webb (1992-99), Nigel Green (1961-69), Bill White (staff 1961-97), Jane Gunner (née Watson (1975-77)

1. Apologies: Admiral Sir Louis le Bailly (retired governor), Peter Cockell (1943-52), Neil Lumby (1968-73), Fiona Burge (née Reichwald 1988-90), Pat Boydell (1988-95), Julian Comrie (1946-54), George Davis (1939-46)

In the absence of the chairman, the president Bill White chaired the meeting.

2. To receive the minutes of the 73rd annual general meeting held on Sunday 2nd July 2006 as published in the 2007 newsletter. It was proposed by David Williams, seconded by Colin Burden and passed unanimously that the minutes should be signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

The hon. secretary reported that Douglas Payne's memoirs had now been printed and were available. Colin Burden urged people to buy one as it was a fascinating account and though set in the 40s it still resonated with current O.R.'s memories of the 60s. The headmaster reported that the college would be running a further careers event in the lent term 2008 and would welcome any O.R. involvement.

4. To receive the hon. treasurer's report

The hon. treasurer was pleased to report that the society's finances were in good shape with balances totalling approximately £13,500. There had been no travel bursary applications this year so no money had been paid out and £500 had been refunded because an applicant had been unable to go on her trip. This means that despite a large expenditure of approximately £2,500 on mats, two sets of mugs and Douglas's book, balances had been largely unaffected. Subscriptions received this year had been £4,940, which was roughly what could be expected whereas last year's was only £3,800. The hon. treasurer reported that there would be one more year before there was no top-up and so it would be appropriate then to review the level of subscription. There are currently 280 students on the college roll. There had been a number of premium bond wins making it a good rate of return on that money.

It was requested that the last of the Kathleen James Fund be spent and it was agreed that the committee would follow this up at their next meeting. Jane explained that the postage for the newsletter had reduced this year because the booklet had been under 100 gms in weight and less than 5mm thickness. It had therefore been possible to send out the bulk of the newsletters on an ordinary second class stamp. The hon. treasurer reported that the accounts had been audited by the hon. auditor, whose only comment was that a stock should be

recorded for next year. It was proposed by Michael Miles and seconded by David Williams and passed unanimously that the accounts should be adopted.

#### 5. Election of Officers

There were no officers up for re-election this year.

#### 6. Nominations for 2 committee members

The hon. secretary had not received any nominations so the president made an appeal for people to come forward, explaining that it would involve only 3 committee meetings a year and the AGM.

The president/newsletter editor, Bill White, announced that Richard Tudor had agreed to take over the editorship of the newsletter. The 2008 newsletter would be jointly produced and then Richard would become the editor. Bill expressed his thanks to Richard for agreeing to do this. Bill also thanked Mary FitzGerald for typing up the newsletter and Jane Gunner for providing the facilities for her to do it.

#### 7. Travel Bursary

The committee requested the AGM to consider two proposals. The first was that the normal travel bursary should be set at £1,000 for 2008. This was proposed by Chris Wood and seconded by Michael Miles and agreed unanimously. The second was that the unused £1,000 for 2007 should be offered to school pupils who had reported on some activity or event, which could be used on the college's web site or in the Rendcombian. This to be run as a trial for one year. It was proposed by David Williams, seconded by Richard Tudor and passed unanimously.

#### 8. Any other business

Colin Burden thanked O.R.s on behalf of the Friends of Rendcomb for allowing the publication of the appeal for more funds in the newsletter. He pointed out that prior to 1974 almost a third of pupils were on some kind of bursary and that that had now dwindled with the loss of Foundation and then assisted places. The FOR planned to raise money to provide scholarships, which would help to redress the balance and the new scheme, if successful, would allow that to happen quickly. Bill White thanked Colin for all he had done to breathe new life into the Friends of Rendcomb. Bill then went on to make special mention of Pat Boydell and Alex Brealy who worked so hard to arrange the sporting fixtures. Alex promised to pass on the AGMs thanks to Pat.

#### 9. Vote of thanks to the College

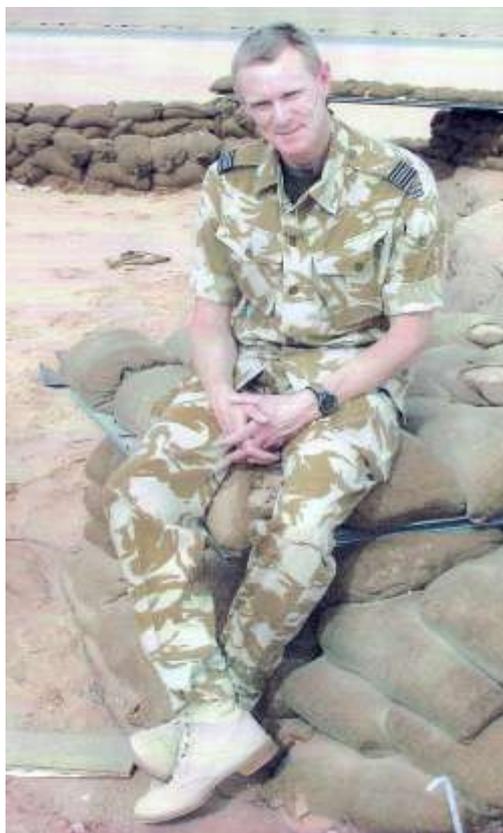
The president thanked the headmaster for the use of the college and for making O.R.s so welcome. The meeting adjourned for an excellent lunch at 12.45 p.m.

### Newsletter Editor

Richard Tudor (1973-80) will take over as editor of the Old Rendcombian newsletter after this edition. He has recently retired from the R.A.F. in the rank of squadron leader. Before joining the R.A.F., he was in the Hong Kong police force. He is currently teaching in a primary school in Buckinghamshire.

From Richard Tudor:

It is with some trepidation that I take on the role of newsletter editor. Bill has done such a super job for so long that I shall not measure up for a while yet, so please humour me. I know that I can rely on Bill's advice and will do the best I can to continue his work. I was at Rendcomb from 1973-80 and learnt a lot (although I hide it well), passing A-levels in English, French and German before going to Bath University from 1980-84, where I studied German and Russian. Shortly after graduating I joined the Royal Hong Kong Police, still desperate to find a language I could speak properly. My efforts were in vain. After 6 entertaining years in various operational roles in Hong Kong, I decided to get a proper job. Then I changed my mind and joined the Royal Air Force as an administrator in 1990. During an eventful 16 years, I managed a number of trips to quirky foreign locations, all at public expense. My last trip to the Gulf in 2003 finally cured me of my itchy feet and I left the RAF in 2006 to become a teacher, a job which reminds me of Rendcomb constantly. I now live and work in Buckinghamshire, but my parents are still in Gloucestershire. I always feel as if I am coming home whenever I am back this way. Over the years I have felt the need to drop in on many occasions, if only to go 'Up Top' and drink in the air and the view. Having completed my peregrinations, I thoroughly enjoy being back at Rendcomb 3 or 4 times a year and I look forward



Richard Tudor in the Gulf, 2006

to the challenge of editing the newsletter. I hope to increase the use of technology and invite comment from all ORs on how they would like to see the publication develop. All contributions will be gratefully received, especially by e-mail. (rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk)

### **The Newsletter**

“The old order changeth, yielding place to new”. Knowing that I felt, after 34 years as editor, I was well past my sell-by date, Richard Tudor (1973-80) kindly OFFERED to take on the job as editor. This edition is our combined effort, after which Richard will take over. In 1974 I asked the O.R. committee if they would agree to sending out an O.R. newsletter and it was agreed to do so on a trial basis. For the first few years, an edition on foolscap, laboriously printed on the recalcitrant Gestetner, was sent out. By 1984 the format had changed to the present booklet, but without photographs. It was only a matter of time before we were able to develop it to its present attractive format. None of this would have been possible without the help initially of Sally Dyke and Linda Troughton who coped with the typing and printing. Subsequently it has been the sterling work of Jane Gunner (1975-77) and her secretary Mary Fitzgerald that allowed for the advance in its standard of production. Chris Wood (1965-71, staff 1976 -) has spent many hours putting in photographs and Richard Gunner has provided essential technical back up. We are grateful to Amanda Breal for supplying many of the photos and Alan Mayo who has printed the newsletter for many years. I am most grateful to all of the above for their dedication, hard work and unfailing interest in the production of the newsletter. BUT, and it is a big BUT, the newsletter would have failed without the steady supply of news and articles from old Rendcombian. This is what has provided its interest and vitality. So, a sincere thank you to all who have contributed so much over so many years. Please continue to do so.

Bill White

The OR newsletter, which started in a modest form and has evolved into the publication you are now reading, is largely due to the vision, communication and popularity of one teacher, Bill White. I am sure you do not underestimate the effort that goes into collating this type of newsletter and the fact that you have been prepared to maintain contact with Bill has contributed to its success. ORs have always been good at keeping in touch with each other but there is no doubt that Bill’s enthusiasm and determination to maintain a yearly output has helped to foster interest and encourage ORs not to lose contact with their year group nor with their school. Bill, thank you for keeping us so well informed and interested over the years.

Chris Wood

### **From the President**

One of the things that has always struck me as being special to Rendcomb is the way in which old Rendcombian continue to keep in touch with each other - by letter, by e-mail, through various web sites and by organising reunions. Last July Christopher Pulford (1970-77) arranged a much enjoyed 30-year reunion; Colin Hitchcock (1971-78) and Peter Croft (1986-93) are planning similar get-togethers for their years. If you are considering doing this, please ask Jane Gunner for help if needed. In last year’s newsletter we included a detailed section about The Friends of Rendcomb, its history and its current financial position. Response to last year’s appeal has so far been modest. Please consider making a contribution to this very worthwhile and very “Rendcombian” cause if you possibly can. Your help could make all the difference to the education of a boy or girl from a primary school in Gloucestershire. We include another form for donations with this newsletter. Since becoming an executive trustee of The Friends of Rendcomb, Colin Burden (staff 1963-97) has done a phenomenal amount of work on bringing the



The president, Bill White, at the 2007 summer reunion.

finances up to date and on planning for future fundraising. With this in mind he organised a meeting at the college of a group of interested O.R.s in January. If you would like to be involved, please contact Colin, 01285 655240. Also the Friends of Rendcomb will be largely responsible for organising the annual Cheltenham Cobalt Unit's Food and Craft Fair on 31st October at the college. If you can help with this in any way, please contact Jane Gunner.

Bill White.

### **Annual General Meeting**

You are invited to attend the 75th annual general meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 29th June 2008 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p.m.

#### Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 74th A.G.M. held on 1st July 2007.
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the hon. treasurer's report
5. Election of officers: chairman, vice-chairman and hon. secretary are all up for re-election.
6. Nominations for 1 committee member  
All proposed and seconded nominations to reach the secretary by 14th June 2008
7. Travel Bursary
8. Any other business
9. Vote of thanks to the College

### **Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures**

#### Sunday 29th June timetable:

- 10.30 a.m. - Coffee in Clock Hall
- 11.15 a.m. - Cricket match
- 12 noon - Bar
- 12.15 p.m. - AGM in Room E1
- 1.15 p.m. - Hot lunch with a vegetarian option for cricketers and visitors. Main course to be collected from servery for lunch in Reading Room. Please let Jane Gunner or Chris Wood know if you want lunch, to help catering for numbers. No charge: donations to O.R. Society
- 2.15 p.m. - Cricket match resumes on top
- 4.15 p.m. - Tea in pavilion

Rugby: Saturday 6th December 2008

Hockey: Sunday 22nd Mar 2009

Cricket: Sunday 28th June 2009 (provisional)

All provisional dates and those not listed here will be shown on [www.rendcombian.org.uk](http://www.rendcombian.org.uk) as soon as they are agreed.

#### Sports Contacts

Please ring well in advance if you wish to play, referee or umpire in any of the fixtures.

Either: Alex Breal 01285 832314 (W), 01285 832363 (H) email: [alex\\_breal@hotmail.com](mailto:alex_breal@hotmail.com)

or: Patrick Boydell 07968 824414 email: [patrickb@tindirect.com](mailto:patrickb@tindirect.com)

### **30 years on - 29th June 2008**

Colin Hitchcock, Graham Moore and Hamish Wilson are keen to organise a gathering of those who left the Vth form in 1978 or Vth form in 1976.

## Congratulations To

**Greg Dorey** (1967-73) on his appointment as H.M. Ambassador to Hungary.

**David Maberley** (1959-66) on his appointment as Keeper of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**Michael Barnes** (1961-69) on being elected mayor of Swindon.

**Simon Wormleighton** (1968-75) who is now headmaster of Plymouth College.

**Richard Dunwoody** (1975-81) on successfully completing his expedition to the South Pole.

**Peter Haynes** (1972-78) on his appointment to Queen's Counsel.

**Alice Hughes** (1995-2003) 1st class hon., zoology, Bristol University

**Georgina Webb-Dickin** (1999-2003) 1st class hon., art and English, Reading University

**Nick Clements** (1996-2004), 1st class hon., architectural studies, Nottingham University

**William Heaven** PhD computer science, Imperial College, titled 'Object-Oriented Specification: Analysable Patterns & Change Management'

## Births

To Charlotte ('Charley', née Stephens 88-90) and Simon Jefferies, a daughter, Alexia

To Rebecca (née Hodgkinson 88-90) and Rupert Woolfenden, a son, Charles.

## Marriages

**Justin Rosa** (1980-87) to Liana Ratiani at the Kazan Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow, in October 2007.

**Rebekah Taplin** (1997-99) to Andrew Beattie. August 2007.

**Clare Newman** (1991-93) to Mark Chappell. October 2007.

**Gemma Leathart** (1993-99) to Nicholai Thomasin-Foster, July 2007 (*right*)

The wedding was held at St. Michael and All Angels, Withington and **Rebekah Taplin** (1997-99) was chief bridesmaid. **Julia Morris** sang with a group of friends during the service.



## Photographs 1970-2007

We would be very grateful for copies of any photographs you may have of the above years. We have been asked to consider putting together a history of the college in photographs and the archives are very short of illustrations from this period. Please send any to Jane Gunner.

## Memorial Service at Bradfield College

A memorial service for Anthony Quick, headmaster 1961-71, was held in June in the chapel of Bradfield College. **James Quick** (1975-80) repeated the excellent tribute to his father that he had previously given at the funeral at Holne Church in Devon. This was followed by an address by the Chaplain from Anthony's time at Bradfield who included some hilarious illustrations of Anthony's somewhat eccentric character. The service was moving and affectionate. Major Tom Wills, the headmaster and Bill White represented Rendcomb.

In November 2007 a circular seat which was made in memory of Alastair Wilson was placed around the sundial in front of the library. The seat was given by the estate of his wife who died recently. The Chaplain, the Rev. Charles Jefferson, dedicated the seat at a small ceremony attended by family and the headmaster, Gerry Holden.

## A Staff Reunion



John (staff 1968-96) and Anne Holt invited Bill White (staff 1961-97) to lunch in October to meet Ron Caves (staff 1963-69). Ron was Rendcomb's first full time chemistry master. He had met Anthony Quick at Charterhouse where he was on a one-year exchange from Campbell College, Belfast. When the governors decided to appoint a full-time chemist, Ron was appointed.

In 1969 Ron returned to Campbell College, eventually becoming deputy head. O.R.s will remember Ron's passionate devotion to rugby and his inspirational coaching of the 1st XV. He also ran the college's first fete in 1967. Ron retired to Perthshire as his family live in Scotland: his wife, Marie, sadly died in 2007.

## 15th Anniversary Reunion

A 15th anniversary reunion for those who left Rendcomb in 1993 is being organised for Saturday July 12th 2008. This will include all those who started in 1986, those who joined in the third year in 1989 and those who joined the 6th form in 1991. To jog your memory, go to the web site [www.RendcombReunion.co.uk](http://www.RendcombReunion.co.uk) to see a photo of the year in the 6th form and a list of those in the year throughout the time we spent at Rendcomb from 1986 - 1993. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite all the teachers who had the misfortune of having to teach us throughout our time at Rendcomb from 1986-1993. The event is to be held at Rendcomb College and will take the form of a lazy summer's afternoon in glorious sunshine outside the Dulverton Hall from 1pm. There will be music, a mouth watering barbecue to cater for all tastes, Pimms and strawberries as well as wine and beer. For those with children there will be entertainment on hand to keep the little ones amused throughout the day. Please remember it's not just a barbecue, the day will be an opportunity for us all to catch up after 15 years and the chance may never arise again. Please get in contact with us through the website - the day will be extremely memorable, one not to miss. For more information and to buy tickets go to [www.Rendcombreunion.co.uk](http://www.Rendcombreunion.co.uk). This is a non profit making event, any profits will be donated to the OR Society in furthering their good work. The official organiser Peter Croft (1986-93) can be contacted via email on [wpetercroft@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wpetercroft@yahoo.co.uk) or by snail mail at: Century House, Silver Street, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 5TS.

## Comments on 2006/07 Newsletters

Andrew Frowd, son of **Dorothy Frowd** (née Sumner) matron 1941, writes:

"I was surprised and very delighted to receive a letter yesterday from an octogenarian O.R. (Denis Montgomery 1936-44), about my mother. He had seen her obituary in the newsletter, which told me of course that it is printed and circulated by now. Mr Montgomery's recollections of both my parents were clear and touchingly expressed after an interval of 63 years. He said that he left Rendcomb in 1944. I only visited Rendcomb once, at the age of eight (it would have been 1954), but the college is an institution I have always heard and known about. In my living room, I have an engraving of Rendcomb, headed "Rendcomb: The seat of Sir John Guise, Bart" and I had it re-framed earlier this year. My wife and I considered sending our son to Rendcomb (Fettes College in Edinburgh was the alternative choice) to prepare him for university entry after four years at Ghana International School. In the end he completed his secondary schooling at Ashbury College in Ottawa."



*Rendcomb: The seat of Sir John Guise, Bart*

From **Peter Hayes** (1949-57):

“My main reason for writing was because of two items in the 2007 newsletter, one being a query from **John Gosden** (1947-54) (page 39) and the other from **Ron Pilkington** (page 47). With reference to John Gosden’s query on the early 1950s stage production in Big School. This has to be ‘Ambrose Applejohn’s Adventure’ in which act 2 is a dream involving pirates. I have the programme of the production by A C Austin (taught French) and it was the first of many shows at Rendcomb in which I took part, thus developing a passion for theatre and amateur dramatics that I enjoy to this day. The cast of Ambrose included **G H Richards, R Pilkington, J O’Brien** (1949-55), **D C de Peyer, M G Richards** (1947-56), **R P Bird, R A Powell** (1946-55), **A G B Wallace** (1949-55), and **P Gilbert**. John Tooze, of course, composed the music. How nice of Ron Pilkington to ask if I (among others) still exist - it is flattering to be remembered by a contemporary and friend after nearly fifty years! I do hope we can get in touch. A mutual friend was **John D R Paine** (1952-57). With reference to **Frank Dutton**’s (1936-44) history of the Manors of Rendcomb (2002 Newsletter) I have a colour print (undated) of Rendcomb Manor with the following inscription. ‘Rendcombe. The seat of Sir William Berkeley Guise Bart. To whom this plate is gratefully inscribed by J & H S Storer.’ The picture shows a square three-storey building with the entrance facing the Churn valley.

I visited Rendcomb last month for the second time in three years and had the pleasure of meeting Gerry Holden together with my wife and daughter. We must have driven past your home as we came along the Whiteway from Chedworth to Cirencester. On my previous holiday in UK there was an O.R. serving beer in the Seven Tuns at Chedworth – she was waiting to go to university in Newcastle I seem to remember. It’s a small world.”

**John Gooch** (1951-60) writes:

“re: the query from John Gosden (p. 39). The play in question was ‘Ambrose Applejohn’s Adventure’ by W Hackett.”



Play 1953

### **Reflections of time at Rendcomb College 1935-41 by Peter Binks**

Reading the 2007 OR newsletter, 'My time at Rendcomb' by Eric Collett brought back memories of my own.

1. There was a tree in the park, just above the lake, known as the Joyce Parker Tree. Joyce was a girl who lived in Rendcomb village. We had to climb the tree to about ten foot off the ground where we carved our initials on the branches.

2. When WW2 started, we had to walk round the outside of the college to check the blackout. Lee-Browne understood that it was lonely, particularly through the lower wilderness, so when my turn came, I was allowed to take a friend.

3. We had to dig trenches in the javelin throwing area for us to jump into when the air raids were on. We never had to use them. The trenches were dug to satisfy parents that their children were safe during air raids.

4. Eric mentioned that we were given pocket money, so the General Meeting appointed a banker so we could deposit our money for safekeeping. That was good training for him. The General Meeting officers are listed in the Rendcomb College magazine Vol. 7 No. 10 February 1943.

5. In form 3, we could stop learning Latin and playing cricket. I enjoyed cricket in the nets but I stopped playing the game to play tennis because when I played cricket, J C James always put me at long stop and 'last man' when batting.

6. On Saturday evenings we had film shows or dances in the big room next to the library. Junior boys danced as 'girls'. In form 4, we changed and became 'boys'. On special occasions, the maids and other ladies connected with the school were invited to the dances.

7. Church on Sunday - Lee Browne had the services speeded up. I think he thought that the sermons were a bit long.

8. I was interested in woodwork. I think it was called the 'Manual'. I made several fruit bowls on a treadle lathe. I still use the bowls. Also, I made a sledge designed by Oliver Morel. In the local park where I lived in Sutton Coldfield, it was the fastest sledge compared with others. Mr Tarrant, the village blacksmith, made the metal runners on this sledge. In 1999, when Brenda and I were on holiday in the UK, we visited Mrs Maisie Tarrant and later discovered that I am related to her!

9. When I was a junior, I had an abscess on my left hand finger. Dr. Gladstone came up from the village and lanced it in the linen room. My finger is still slightly deformed.

10. Mrs Kate Manifold taught us French. When her husband came to visit her, we boys were invited to their rooms to play recorder music. I still have my recorder. When Mrs Manifold left Rendcomb, they went to live in Brisbane, Queensland. When we came to Australia, we went to visit them. A book was written by Rodney Hall called 'J S Manifold – an Introduction to the Man and his Work' published by University of Queensland Press 'To the Memory of Kate'.

11. In 1948 I had a Morgan 3 wheeler car and visited Rendcomb several times in it. On one of my visits I was told a story of one of Lee-Browne's cars. He had a 3-wheeler car. One day some senior boys carried this car into Saul's Hall. They asked a junior boy to go to Lee-Browne and say 'Your car is parked in an unauthorised place.' Apparently he saw the funny side of this situation and no one got into trouble.

12. My father, Harold Binks, was Sales Director of AMAL carburettors for motorcycles. Once, he gave a talk to the senior boys on carburation.

I agree with Eric that D W Lee-Browne was an excellent headmaster. I still have the school report and reference he gave me when I left in 1941. The time I spent at Rendcomb with Lee-Browne as headmaster was character forming and laid the foundation for the rest of my life.

### **Further thoughts on Returning to Rendcomb by George Davis (1939-46)**

Talking to Mrs Comrie whilst sitting outside the pavilion up top in July 2006, she asked me what particular memories I had of the playing field and pavilion, and I had to tell her that this was a new pavilion which I'd not seen before, but that I had plenty of memories about the field itself, quite a lot of which centred round that larger than life figure, Bill Smith, who was a member of the ground staff. He was a big man with a countryman's ruddy complexion, and who always wore a disreputable sweat stained trilby of indeterminate age. In fact, I don't know why he hadn't been called up to the forces as, of course, this was during World War Two. We never quite knew if Bill was employed by the school or by the estate, whose Factor, Walter Telling, had been called into the R.A.F. We suspected the latter, as Bill regarded the land as his own demesne and was always incensed when he discovered that Mrs Lee-Browne had descended outside in summer hat, gardening gloves, trowel and trug and proceeded to weed a flower bed outside the library window. It was never difficult to get him going on this perceived intrusion.

Bill's main claim to fame was that he played inside forward to Wally Hammond's centre forward for Cirencester Town. (Wally was later on to become a Gloucestershire County cricketer and an English international). Bill was always affable to us and he was polite to the extent that, when I was made a prefect, he stopped addressing me as Garge and changed it to Mr Garge!!!

Mrs Comrie then told me the story of his demise, when, sitting in the same seat he had occupied in the Bathurst Arms in North Cerney for the last twenty-five years, he drained his pint pot and promptly died where he sat! As one of his companions said afterwards, "Good ole Bill, never went until he'd finished his ale"!!

My main memory of Bill was during the annual North Cerney cricket match, which was always the last match of the summer term (and was also my last match at Rendcomb in July 1946). We were fielding, and Bill had come out to bat (old grey flannels, one pad, a borrowed bat and of course the sweat soaked felt hat!). I was fielding at fine leg, watched Bill take his guard, and as he turned to survey the field, he grinned at me and said "Owdo Mr Garge" and bent down to start. I had a premonition about what was going to happen and I moved even finer. Sure enough he swept the ball round to let right into my waiting hands. He straightened up, scratched his head, said "Well, boggar I," grinned at me and wandered off. I didn't know whether to be elated or sorry. That was the last I ever saw of him.

The other memory, which came to mind, was about radios, or rather the lack of them. There weren't many radios about anyway in the early war years, and certainly no portables. As the war hotted up, particularly the bombing raids on mainland Britain, quite a few of us, particularly those living in London and large cities such as Bristol, were getting increasingly concerned about the lack of news and there was a feeling, particularly amongst seniors such as **M A C Levett** that we should have access to more information. Eventually the head agreed to provide a radio, which would be placed on the mantelpiece in Saul's Hall, but which would be strictly under the control of Mr Lee-Browne himself. I really can't remember the listening time - there was only one per day! It could have been the six o'clock news, but this would have been during prep., so I think it was more likely to have been the one o'clock news, which was after PT and just before lunch. It lasted about seven minutes and the radio was then removed - any outside influence always being very carefully screened. I have no wish to be critical of the head for whom I still have good memories and a very high regard, but he did at times give the impression that the war was an unwarranted interruption of his own (and the school's) quiet way of life. That is not to say that he was anti-militaristic, not with a brother who was a Royal Navy submarine flotilla captain, but he was truly upset when the Ministry of Labour and National Service Order demanding the registration of all boys and girls of 16 years of age came out in 1944 telling them to join any organisation which would prepare them for future military service. This heralded the birth of the Rendcomb Section of the Air Training Corps under the gallant leadership of Pilot Officer Dickers (A G Granston Richards, physics and maths) thus loosening yet further the ties, which had bound us to Rendcomb. Weekly parades in the stable courtyard, visits to South Cerney for flights in Oxfords and Ansons and the much anticipated frequent church parades held on a Sunday at the Cirencester parish church and in close proximity to the girl guides, girls training corps and other young female groups, a proximity much valued by the young fifth and sixth form bloods in air force blue. On reflection, the head had a right to feel beleaguered!! Finally, back to the radios. It became known that a guy named Steed, who was only with us for a couple of terms and slept in one of the top floor dormitories and so was probably in Forms 2 or 3, had a radio to which he listened under the sheets after lights out - his dorm (and bed) got pretty quickly crowded out, but bad news always travels fast, as soon did his radio! I recall that his father's name was Wickham Steed, who I think was at one time editor of The Times. Does this ring a bell with anybody?

### A Move to the Isle of Man

**Derek Wiggall** (1966-74) has sent this interesting account:

In January 2005, I was made redundant from my job as an IT consultant with Parity Solutions, having been with them for over 17 years. I undertook some lucrative contract work for 3-4 months during which time I was looking for a permanent position in the north west. Searches for jobs in my field of business analysis and IT project management threw up 2 jobs in the Isle of Man, a place neither Alison or I had ever been to, even though it isn't that far across the Irish Sea from where we were living in Southport. I was offered, and took up, a job with one of the companies - Charterhouse Group International (supplier of employment/company structures to the burgeoning contract market in the UK and Ireland), based in Ramsey on the Isle. I started there on July 11th 2005, with Alison joining me in a rented apartment at the beginning of August. Our children are all grown up with 2 of them not living in the UK so we thought it was time we had an adventure! Having spent years driving to assignments at clients all around the UK, it was with great pleasure that I found I could walk or cycle to work!

It took some time for us to sell our house in Southport, not completing until August 2006. Even though we had a lovely view across Ramsey Bay and the sea was only across the road, living in a two bedroom apartment with no garden and not many of our own belongings was getting a little wearing, so it was with great relief that we found a house we really like and we moved in earlier this year. Subsequently, Charterhouse went through a major upheaval and laid off a third of its workforce, me included! I'm currently doing contract work with the Royal Bank of Scotland International while sorting out a permanent position. Unfortunately I have to drive or get a bus to the outskirts of Douglas but at least I'm still home every evening, usually by 5.30-6.00. I'm pretty optimistic of getting another permanent position as we intend staying on the IOM. Unemployment is very low, although most jobs are in administration or accountancy with many of the offshore financial institutions based here. There aren't as many permanent jobs in my field but there seems enough contract work to go round. Even though I still have to have a work permit (until I've been here 5 years) at least I'm based here and that saves a company the cost of moving somebody over. I'm also building up more contacts. In a small place like

this (population the same as that of Southport) people soon get to know you!

Alison is doing voluntary work with The Manx Wildlife Trust. She spends a couple of days a week doing physical work out on their reserves and one day a week in their office. Life is definitely different here and I could spend some time dwelling on and recounting my observations - here are a few. They say it's twenty years behind the UK, or it's like going back to the 1950s. In many respects that is true. People don't lock their doors and they leave keys in their car ignitions. It's a safe place to be as crime is very low. What's the point of stealing a car when there's nowhere to take it to? Because everybody knows one another, if you get up to mischief somebody will know about it straight away - particularly the local bobby. However, there are the usual drug and drink problems - much more so in Douglas than Ramsey, but then a lot more people live in the capital.

On the other hand there are cutting edge innovations happening in the financial markets and mobile phone technology (we tend to get used as a trial ground). There is also a thriving film industry with 4-5 feature films being funded and filmed here each year as well as t.v. series. It's a great place to bring up children, not that we brought any with us. They seem to thrive in this safe environment. People respect each other and families seem to do a lot more together than across - no retail parks with Sunday shopping here, banks aren't even open on a Saturday! (The local term for the UK is 'across', or sometimes 'the other island' - they're quick to point out that IOM is not a part of the UK or the EU!). Naturally there are some downsides. There isn't the variety of shops, services and entertainments that are available in the UK and service can leave a lot to be desired. You have to bite your tongue from time to time and say to yourself "Well it's the IOM" rather than ranting about how much better service and selection is in the UK. The cost of consumer goods and utilities is more, as the majority has to be imported. Getting on and off the island is expensive. But then taxes and rates are much lower, there are no water rates or council tax and it's very rare to have to pay for a car park! It can also be claustrophobic. They talk about 'second year syndrome' and it's very true. This does affect people in their second year, particularly the partners of those who have come for work and may not have jobs themselves. After the honeymoon first year of exploring a new environment the reality of being in a strange place kicks in. I know it has affected Alison to some extent, even though we've got involved with life here as much as possible. On the other hand there is a lot more space with plenty of walks across some dramatic countryside. The landscape is a real microcosm with mountain, fells, glens, cliffs and plenty of coastline. The rain and wind can get a bit depressing if you let it. We're fortunate to be in Riviera Ramsey, which has more than its fair share of sunshine and is one of the sunniest places in the British Isles. We can vouch for that! When most of the island is bathed in cloud and we can see Mannanan's cloak covering Snaefell and surrounding hills (we have some great views), Ramsey, at the start of the northern plain, is bathed in sunshine. Evenings sitting in our garden can be particularly pleasant! We've never seen such clear skies and so many stars! Even though things haven't gone entirely smoothly since we've been here, there were only minor glitches. We love being here and, like so many people, would not move back unless we have to. There is still so much to explore and we'd miss the world tin bath championships! We're not motorbike fans so the TT holds no attraction even though it was the centenary this year, which attracted almost as many visitors as residents - we might consider offering homestay to any O.R.s that come for the TT!

On a sad note mum passed away in the spring of 2004, a few weeks after having a stroke. On a happier note my eldest daughter, Philippa, who lives with her Canadian husband in Ottawa is going to have a baby soon so I'll be a grandad! Interestingly I discovered that one of the volunteers that works with my wife on the wildlife reserves had two stints as a master at Cheltenham College and remembers bringing a sports team to Rendcomb to play - it truly is a small world.

## Pictures 1957-1960

We are grateful to Mike Naish (1952-60) for the following pictures and comments:

My best guess - taken 1959 or 1960

L to R: Gough (1949-57)\*, Heppleston, D Tucker (1956-61), J Webb (1954-63), P (Harrison?) (1954-61), M Naish (1952-60).



My best guess 1958/57.

These are also entirely from memory as I had no notes on this picture.

L to R. Jonathon Shaw (1953-61), Mike Naish, unknown\*\* (possibly someone called Ferguson), behind unknown, D.Hodges (1953-61), Dave Poole crossed legs, behind Dave Poole, Taylor, Mark Whittering (1956-61)



My best guess 1958/59

These are entirely from memory as I had no notes on this picture.

L to R. Stuart Airey, Taylor, Mike Naish-in shadow, Jonathon Shaw (1953-61) (died 1979.) Dave Poole (changed his name to Dave Allison) (Died several years ago). Simon Hicks, D.Hodges (1953-61).



My best guess 1957/58.

Jon van Collie died in the 1957-58 influenza pandemic so this picture was probably taken in 1957. These are also entirely from memory as I had no notes on this picture.

L to R. Taylor, Hodges, Jonathon Shaw, Simon Hicks, unknown\*\* (possibly someone called Ferguson), standing higher Jon van Collie, Mark Whittering, Dave Poole, Mike Naish.

Notes:

\*In picture 1 Gough was probably the younger brother of Howard Gough

\*\*In picture 2 & 3, unknown might be a person with surname Waite.

### Summer Reunion July 2007

Owing to the weather, the cricket match at the summer reunion was cancelled at the eleventh hour. It is hoped that some kind of indoor option may be available in future. Nevertheless, the turnout for the agm was encouraging. The agm was followed by lunch in the dining room, kindly provided by the college. A number of those who left Rendcomb in 1977 attended lunch and seemed to feel immediately at home, despite the welcome improvement in the standard of the food since their time! **Chris Pulford** (1970-77), **Phil Lyons** (1970-76), **Dave Pitt** (1971-77) and **Chris Hart** (1970-77), among others, seemed entirely at ease. After lunch, there was a presentation to Bobby Morgan who leaves the school after 17 years as deputy headmaster. Jessica Weston spoke, making various references to his skills as a hockey player and coach and his sense of humour. Many former pupils and staff were there to wish him well and the society presented him with a picture of the college and a cheque.

Richard Tudor

### 30 Year Reunion - 1st July 2007

Some reflections on the Rendcomb reunion of 1st July 2007 from **Christopher Pulford** (1970-77) (christopher.pulford@btinternet.com)



*Left to right: David Pitt, Jane Gunner, Chris Pulford, Sarah Robinson, James Terry, Sara Freeman, Paul Maguire, Paul Curtis-Hayward, Nick Smith, Simon Tyler, Philip Lyons, Tim Lausch, Ian Underdown, Jeremy Read, Wendy Hewitt, Chris Hart, Sarah Robins (née Morris), Diane Martin (née Crew), Michelle Ashmore(guest), Taryn Nixon, Anthony Ashmore*

The task of rounding up members of our 1977 leavers year group for a July reunion was an enjoyable one made easy thanks to the internet and the cooperation (complicity?) of fellow O.R.'s of 1970's vintage. It was both fascinating and touching to peel back the decades and exchange emails with contemporaries. I had a particularly warm and informative exchange with **Philip Faulks** (1970-75) in Australia. One had a growing feeling of excitement and anticipation for what seemed to be developing into a sizeable get-together. I am no great fan of reunions *per se* but I had a hunch that meeting up with contemporaries, many of whom who were in the Junior House (the 'runt-hole') in 1970 would prove interesting, spooky and maybe a little surreal... The tour of the school buildings was great fun and the reminiscences often hilarious. The comparatively few years we spent cooped up at Rendcomb left deep impressions on all of us. Predictably, some O.R.'s seemed more positive than others in their recollections. In spite of the dismal weather, we were reminded of the outstanding beauty of Rendcomb as we were guided by **Jane Gunner** (1975-77) and **Chris Wood** (1965-71) round the main building.

The Old Rectory has become a very homely place and one was struck by all the creature comforts that boarding houses are now obliged to provide. Certainly there have been many improvements to the college in the past 30 years but some of us were very shocked and dismayed to see the demise of the woodwork shop ('the manole') where our creativity and carpentry skills were so ably encouraged by **Colin Burden** (1966-97). In these excessively risk-averse nanny-state days, health and safety officers would have had apoplexy if they had inspected the woodwork and metal working facilities of the 1970s. We were given considerable freedom and responsibility in those days, which has served us well in the decades that followed our departure from Rendcomb. But I digress...



The atmosphere during the day was congenial and we are all immensely grateful to **Jane Gunner**, **Chris Wood**, **Bill White** and **Colin Burden** for joining us. There were many laughs and some great nostalgic moments. **James Terry** with his legendarily impressive memory was able to amuse us with numerous anecdotes, illustrated by a fine selection of black and white photos all taken and processed by him. **Colin Hitchcock** (1971-78) took many photos on the day and we are all in his debt for the great work he does in maintaining and developing the OR web site.

We enjoyed lunch in the dining room and tea was made all the more entertaining by a brief speech from Bill White. It was wonderful and slightly chilling to hear that fine sonorous voice addressing us after 30 years! My apologies to those of you whom I failed to reach. It was not for want of trying. Some of you (you know who you are) were too “busy” with “other commitments” (do I hear a chicken clucking somewhere?) to join us but that is fine – I am just sorry you missed out on such a special occasion. You may say Pulford needs to get a life but July 1st 2007 stands out for me as a high point of the year.

Some time ago, writing about his experience of a Rendcomb reunion, **Kevin Barraclough** (1969-76) (a kind and supportive presence for many of us in the Junior House in those far off days) mused that at these reunions we inevitably measure our lives against our contemporaries. He writes: “There are some people who let you glimpse the uniqueness of them and you are glad to have met them again”. I was left with a huge sense of gratitude that we had gathered and been able to reconnect to the unique place that is Rendcomb College – and to each other. The gathering was made all the more poignant with the absence of **David Butler** (1970-77) and **Veronica Thresh** (1975-77) – they were remembered.

Bill White captured the spirit of the occasion when he remarked at the atmosphere of entente between us all. We gelled immediately, which had a magical quality about it. A big thank you to all who were present – especially **Ian Underdown** (1970-75) from Canada - many of us hadn’t set eyes on him since 1975!

Round up of those present: the September 1970 contingent: Anthony Ashmore, Paul Curtis Hayward, Chris Hart, Tim Lausch, Phil Lyons, Paul Maguire, Chris Pulford, Jeremy Read, Nick Smith, Simon Tyler, Ian Underdown. 1971: David Pitt, Colin Hitchcock, 1972: James Terry

The 1975 girls: Wendy Hewitt, Jane Watson, Taryn Nixon, Diane Crew, Sara Freeman, Sarah Robinson. 1976: Sarah Morris, Charlotte Bonardi

### From the Headmaster

Dear Old Rendcombian,

I am writing this letter after meeting Barbara Glassmacher in Munich. Barbara has just shown us an incredible photographic journal lovingly produced by Inken Schnatman, who has written at great length and much appreciation of her stay at Rendcomb last year. When I think of Old Rendcombians, I tend to think of those “lifers” as we euphemistically call them, those who join us in the Old Rec or Godman and leave seven years later. Inken, who will be known to many of last year’s sixth formers, spent only one year with us and she speaks about the quality of friendships she made and how the year has been the happiest school year of her life. Her view is not unique and I am pleased to say that many leavers, especially those who stay on to enjoy the benefits of the sixth form, appreciate that friendships made at Rendcomb are often life-long commitments. Indeed it is this special quality of friendship made at Rendcomb which strikes me as being so quintessential to our school. A similar atmosphere was palpable when another group of old Rendcombians met under the auspices of The Friends of Rendcomb summoned by our very own **Colin Burden**. It is this feeling of friendship and community that you will find so much in evidence should you visit your old school today. If your flight path takes you across Rendcomb, please do pop in and see us; it is worth letting us know in advance

and that way we can set aside some time in the diary to show you round. Obviously, for old Rendcombian days, you just need to roll up and of course, the modern mode of communication with email, mobile phones and Facebook, guarantees that not only do you know who will be present; you will probably have met up with them the evening before in North Cerney, Cirencester or Cheltenham! To that end, can I commend the particular work of four of your committee, who have given sterling service to your society in recent years.

**Colin Hitchcock** and **Pat Boydell** have brought the OR society into the twenty-first century by updating the OR website and by increasing communication by email. I am also very keen to strengthen the communication between the college and ORs, so please visit our website so that you can see what is currently going on and where you will also find an interactive version of the recent Rendcombian magazine and our most recent newsletter. Should you want a cd version please contact Diana Baker at reception.

**Jane Gunner**, as well as being secretary to the OR society for over a quarter of a century, has also been a wonderful supporter of the college over the years. Along with the other important assertive ladies in my life, my PA, Christine Johnson and my marketing director and my wife, Liese, she has that wonderful knack of reminding me when things are overdue without making me feeling guilty! Moreover, with Richard her husband (not an OR but equally loyal to the college) she has sent three delightful boys through the college – a familial model that I would, of course, encourage other ORs to plagiarise. For all that what Jane does (and continues to do) for the college, we are most grateful. Finally, there is **Bill White**, who has edited this newsletter for 34 years, a long time. It was a great honour that he should be made president of your society (an honour which is rarely conferred on people who have not actually been pupils at the school). He will continue to do you proud in this role and I am enormously appreciative of the support he has given me as a wise counsellor, supporter and friend during my headship. Indeed, I have just remembered why I am writing this epistle: it was Bill who asked me to say a few words about what is going on in the college. Most of it can be found in the links above, which is why I have given them and why I actively want you to visit such links. For those of you who are yet to embrace modern technology, here are the highlights of the current Rendcomb, in five points.

1. Record pupil numbers: 280 in the senior school; 130 in the junior school
2. Record exam pass-rate: A level : 98%; GCSE 94% A\*-C
3. New deputy head: Mr David Baker, formerly head of mathematics and boarding at Sutton Valence, rugby referee and cricketer. Pupil verdict: softly spoken and strict!
4. Very positive Ofsted (boarding) inspection. "Pupils make excellent contribution to the life of the school". ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) inspection due September 2008.
5. Recent pupil designed questionnaires suggest that they are still happy, but of equal importance still have that assertiveness (which some of you will have acquired through the General Meeting) to make their school better. Long may that continue.

...as I stagger into my ninth year as headmaster, could I ask for anything else? Yes just one thing: when you visit, do come and seek me out. It is still your school and we are all the guardians of that important legacy which Noel Wills left us to cherish and nurture all those years ago. I want to listen to and learn about your views.

With warm best wishes,  
Gerry Holden,  
Headmaster 1999-

### Twelve years in Academia

**Will Heaven** (1989-96) wrote to Chris Wood:

Finally got the PhD confirmation a few weeks ago. But now it feels like I've stood up to get something and forgotten what! I should give a brief summary of the last decade. It's instructional to anyone wishing to leave school and go to university for 12 years. Left school for English literature and philosophy at Bristol University, where I eventually twigged what philosophy was all about in my 3rd year and went to do a philosophy MA at UCL. Having done with that, I figured I should earn some money, and, liking both the little formal logic I'd picked up and the idea of working at home whenever I wanted, I decided to be a programmer (I don't know why I thought programmers worked from home). Anyway, the obvious first step to becoming a programmer was to do an MSc (there's a theme emerging here) and I moved from UCL to Imperial College (where I ran into Annabel Howard (1994-98) doing things with mosquitoes). At the end of this year (2001) came the turning point for the next 7. Doing a small research project for the MSc, I was cajoled and flattered by the offer of funding to do a PhD, so signed up. But because of babies being born (my supervisor's, not mine) I had some time to fill before starting, so went back to UCL for a year and worked as a research assistant in their computing department. So the computer science PhD finally started at Imperial in 2003. I finished my part in 2007. The examiners' reports and university senate's admin came through early 2008. To fund the end of the

PhD, I took a research job at Imperial and the contract expires this summer. Where to next I haven't yet decided, but I need to publish as much research work as possible to get a better standing in academia (if I stay). Another option is to move into journalistic science writing. Currently living with girlfriend and two cats in north London, where we're renovating a Victorian terrace house. Dust, splinters, hammered thumbs, and much learnt about plastering and old wiring (I still remember wiring a plug in your physics class most times I open one up)

### **Old Rendcombian News**

**Eric Blencowe** (1976-83) has moved from his job with the UN Environment Programme and is now responsible for the UK's membership of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the secretary of the Darcoini Initiative (a £7 million per annum grants programme to assist developing countries meet their obligations under the Convention.) He says he seems to spend his life in trains, on planes and at E.U. meetings!

**David Maberley** (1959-66) writes to say he has accepted the offer of the newly created post of "Keeper of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives" at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

**Ted Jones's** (1940-48) wife, Doreen, asks for best wishes to be conveyed to all O.R.s who knew Ted. She says that she has put Ted's O.R. tie in his "memory box" in the care home.

**Lawrence Wragg** (1956-63) has been keeping up his mountaineering adventures – a couple of 4000 metre peaks in the Alps and some taxing rock climbing in Chamonix and Switzerland. This was followed by a gentler (!) expedition with a group to Patagonia in November – very remote, very austere beautiful, and very treacherous in its weather. They possibly trod on a glacier visited by no one previously; tricky walking – no paths, plenty of bog, mud, thickets and dense forest. Wonderful: he'd recommend it (That's "gentler" is it? Ed"). He says that his son, **David** (1992-97) continues to thrive, working incredibly hard in I.T. consultancy.

**Chris Terrill** (staff 1978-83) achieved much publicity with his latest production for ITV – *Commando: on the Front Line*, which required him to spend 12 months at the heart of the operations of the Royal Marines – aged 55!

**Ean Branston** (1989-94) runs the Equine Spa near Bourton-on-the Water.

**David Semple** (1950-56) now lives in Chile.

**Michael Attwood** (1983-88) is a councillor for the Norton ward in Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

**Chris Morshead** (1974-77) left the Navy in May and completed his training to bring his commercial pilot's licences up to date in August. He is teaching people to fly with Cabair and also flies for a company that specialises in aerial surveys and photography. He says that he flew over Rendcomb recently on the way to Bristol Airport – it is always strange to see Rendcomb from the air – and it seems like only yesterday that he was there!

**John Tolputt** (headmaster 1977-99) has now retired from the Purcell School. He and Patta are based in W. Sussex. Bill White had lunch with them in November and found them both on good form and adjusting to retirement!

**Michael Barnes** (1961-69) is mayor of Swindon. From Rendcomb he went to Southampton University to read law, and then to University College, London, for a master of law degree. After serving his articles in Swindon, Michael qualified as a solicitor in 1982, and then worked for 10 years for the British Railways board as a solicitor, specialising in commercial conveyancing. He has served as non-executive director of Swindon Primary Care Trust from 2002. He played cricket for Duntisbourne Abbots for 35 years and for many years he was a member of Highworth Bridge Club. **Gemma Thomasin-Foster** (1993-99, née Leathart) spent a gap year working in a school in Sydney and then returned to the UK to complete a B.A. (hons) in international business management. She then spent nearly two years working locally, including 18 months as a project manager at the Royal Agricultural College where she met her husband. She returned to university in 2006 to complete a PGCE to become a secondary school teacher focusing on business studies, leisure and tourism. She is now on the staff of Balcarras School, Cheltenham.

**Ben Knapp** (1977-84) is still working at I.B.M., spending time in Swansea or London. His main project at the DVLA, the new driving licence, successfully went into operation in June. He has also been promoted to associate partner.

**Peter Haynes** (1972-78) was one of only 98 Q.C.s appointed from over 330 applicants across the country. He will be sworn in in March at Westminster Hall. He is currently in The Hague.

**Marlen Riemer** (00-02) writes to say that she is finally back in Germany after one and a half years in Sweden where she studied for a year. She is in Bremen to complete her studies.

**Justin Rosa** (1980-87), whose marriage is recorded elsewhere, met his future wife dancing in London. After that they met in Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Isle of Man where they got engaged. They are living in London but expect to visit his wife's parents regularly in the Republic of Georgia.

## Memorial Seat

In November 2007 a circular seat which was made in memory of **Alastair Wilson** (1929-36) was placed around the sundial in front of the library. The seat was given by the estate of his wife who died recently. The chaplain, the Rev. Charles Jefferson, dedicated the seat at a small ceremony attended by family and the headmaster, Gerry Holden.

## Obituaries

The society has learnt of the deaths of the following and sends its sincere condolences to their families.

**Alasdair Wallace** (1949-57) died in October 2007. His wife, Wendy, sent the following tribute:



Celebrating Alasdair Wallace, the man who taught us all something about celebrating life, living whole-heartedly, taking risks and lavishly blessing others! This man did nothing by halves. And now, Alasdair has leapt into his next great adventure. Alasdair spent his formative years in England, winning cross-country races, poaching rabbits, and sneaking from his boarding school dorm to watch deer or to smoke his pipe. Enticed by the dream of building a cabin in the wilderness, Alasdair emigrated to Canada alone at the age of 21. Here he fell in love with and married Wendy Gleed, and the two of them moved to Lakefield, Ontario, where Alasdair took a position at the high school teaching English, but it couldn't contain him. Passionate lover of music, compassionate teacher, outdoors-man, cabin builder, amazing daddy, loving husband, bungee-jumping daredevil, wannabe Harley owner, man of faith, dream maker. Alasdair pushed the limits of living and loving, of being and blessing and emboldened others with the liberty to do the same. Alasdair spent seven idyllic years at Rendcomb, participating to the maximum in both prescribed and unendorsed activities. He attributed to Rendcomb the roots of his faith and life philosophy, his passions for nature, woodwork, music, literature and drama, rugby and

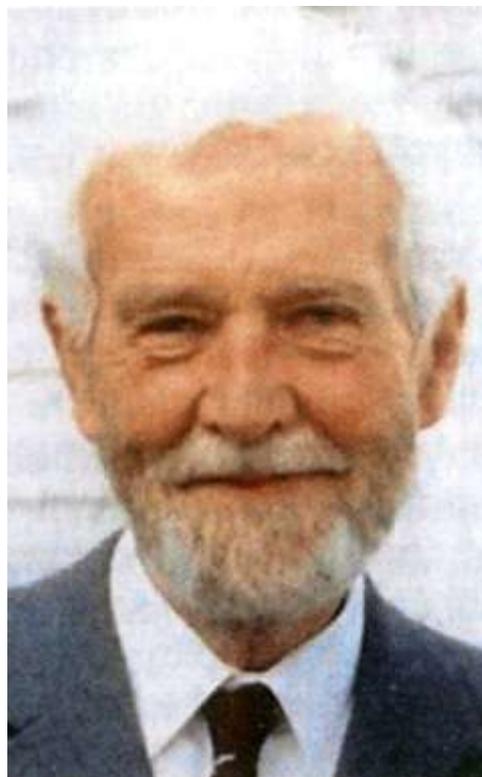
cross-country running, for adventure and for pushing his barriers. Oh, the Rendcomb tales he told: badger watching in Conigree Wood; stealthy moonlight treks to Withington Wood; "borrowing" the gardener's rifle; country life lessons with Ben Legg – keeper of Clifferdene; Big School conscience meetings with D Lee-Browne; stone picking on Top Field; pumping the church organ; hand bell ringing; Hare and Hound; Round the halls.... Alasdair valued his rich and varied Rendcomb experience and he loved the teachers and friends with whom he shared it. The experience stayed with him in technicolour throughout his life.

**Peter Wyon** (1926-30) died in April 2007. His family sent this tribute:

Born just before the First World War within the sound of Bow Bells (so according to tradition a cockney!), Peter's life was changed by both wars, as must have been the case with so many of his generation. Following the First War his father gained a research post in Leeds. What changed his life most was his father's early death in 1924. Peter was immediately sent away to boarding school in Gloucestershire, financed by a scholarship from a medical widows' charity, and he talked about the wrench this was for him to go for what was then an entire day's journey on his own at the age of 11, arriving in the dark in a place with no street lights. His school days were happy though and he did well enough to gain a place as a medical student in Leeds. Fate took another turn that changed his life when he failed his first exams and had to start the course again on the next one, which started six months later. On this course was a beautiful young student called May Mitchell, and the rest is history. After a long courtship and several stints as a ships doctor on the Blue Funnel Line to the Far East to satisfy his wanderlust, he married in 1939 and obtained a GPs post in Thirsk. Peter and May's first child, David was born in 1940 but again fate took a hand in Peter's life as the Second World War gathered pace and he joined the army as a doctor. After several UK postings he finally left the UK in 1942 when May was pregnant with Andrew and spent three and a half long years in India and Burma in the war against Japan. He rarely talked about what must have been very dark days in the jungles of Burma fighting an implacable enemy. He never saw Andrew until his return in 1945 to his beloved quiet country town of Thirsk. Nine months later Bill was born and two years after that Sally, completing his family until the arrival of Danny when he was 13.

Peter was a keen tennis player who had often played matches in Leeds and at Thirsk Athletic Club with May, but once this ceased he was able to fit tennis into his increasingly busy life by making a grass court in the garden of 1 Croft Heads. Even in those days he was a keen organic gardener, 40 years before the rest of the world caught up. He was much loved by his patients for his kind and thoughtful treatment of people, trusted by all and a pillar of the community, running a scout troop for many years. Peter's mother and May's father made their final moves to within a hundred yards of Peter and May's home in Croft Heads and they both received loving and thoughtful care. He and May shared a love of the countryside and walking and visited the Lake District many times. They fulfilled a dream by buying Capplerigg in Kentmere in 1959, which was used for many wonderful holidays by family and friends for 30 years.

On his retirement in 1972 he and May moved to Thirlby and the next phase of his life began. He was a key and active figure in the establishment of the Abbeyfield homes in Sowerby and Thirsk. He had always had an interest in local history and this was indulged much more since he now had the time, culminating in the purchase of Thomas Lord's birthplace in Kirkgate and the establishment of Thirsk Museum, a lasting testament to his interest and willingness to give to the community. He became a Friend and was an active member of the Quakers in Thirsk. He and May revived their interest in caravanning and went regularly to the west coast of Scotland. Living within a mile of Gormire Lake and the Garbutt Wood Nature Reserve, he maintained his strong interest in nature and the countryside and walked every day with May, usually on the local walks from their doorstep, until his move to the care home in Scorton. The overwhelming sentiment of those who knew him was that he was a "kind gentleman". These two words sum up the essence of the man, though there are many more that would be appropriate. Very even tempered, he only ever got annoyed by trivial incidents and took major crises calmly, unless they involved the main love of his life, May. He cared deeply for his



family and helped all of them in many ways, by example, advice, guidance and encouragement. He will always be remembered and loved by his family and those who knew him.

**J A Cunnison** (1937-41) died in December 2006.

**Iris Beard** (née Lloyd), matron 1965-1970, died in March 2007.

**Jeremy Jenkin** (1987-91) died tragically and accidentally in November 2007 aged 32 years. His mother writes:

"Jeremy was sensitive and vulnerable. He had a very strong work ethic and did a variety of jobs. He gave a lot and took little. He touched so many people's lives. One of his friends wrote that by knowing Jeremy for all this time his character and spirit had enriched his own life. He will be remembered for being fiercely honest, his kindness, his love of nature which came from being born in Kenya and his entertaining wit. And, of course, no one could forget those incredible eyes and smile. We have been overwhelmed by the kind letters and loving words which we have received."

**Luke Nicholls** (1991-96) died on 16th March 2008, unexpectedly but after a period of ill health. His parents wrote the following tribute to Luke in the service sheet for the funeral:

"You must feel privileged to have this fine boy as your son". Such were the words of Professor Hassan, Luke's oncology professor at Churchill Hospital, Oxford, when we discovered on Monday 10th March that there were no further treatment options and that the desmoplastic cancer had come back with a vengeance. Luke's brave spirit impressed all those around him but especially the doctors and nurses, cracking jokes almost to the end. Concerned only for others, he would ask, "Have mum and dad had enough sleep?" Worried that we might be worrying too much right up to his untimely end. Everybody who has lived at Kempsford for the last 25-30 years will remember this loveable, endearing little 2-year-old boy who ate like a horse and had one of the most beautiful smiles we have ever seen. Luke loved to play the piano and enjoyed travelling: having travelled in Africa, the USA, the Far East, Middle East and Europe, by his early teens he was happy to return to Kempsford and live in The Pentre, the house that he loved so much. Often referring to his favourite holiday,

which was the hike to Everest base camp and Kala Pattar with his dad. Such was the 30 year old life of our dear son Luke, whose last 9 month battle with cancer comprised so many beautiful and precious moments that we will remember for the rest of our lives. Even though we still do not believe what has happened to us and we are heartbroken and miss him so much, already we are relieved that he is now at peace and has been taken into God's tender loving care. Those beautiful cherished moments will always be with us, so Luke will always be with us, forever.

Among those present at the funeral were: **Mark Whittering** (1956-61), **Chris Wood** (1965-71, staff 1976-), **Michael Slark** (staff 1991-), **Bobby Morgan** (staff 1990-2007) and **Bill White**.



**Brendan Hall** (1971-76) died in September 2007. His sister, **Sally Ede** (1975-77) writes:

Whilst on a trip to Chicago at the end of September 2007, Brendan was hit by a car, which broke his leg. He was allowed to fly home shortly afterwards. Three days later he died, with his family around him, aged 49 in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after suffering a massive pulmonary embolism. Brendan and I were only a year apart in age and as children we were inseparable. We went to the same school until Brendan went to Rendcomb aged 13, and where I joined him 4 years later. Thanks to him, I already knew many of the 6th form and he looked after me in my first year making the transition to a new school so much easier. Very much the big brother. After Rendcomb, Brendan went to study law at Birmingham University. He then took up a post in London with Wedlake Saint, solicitors, and later became a partner.

During his time as a junior lawyer he met and married his first wife, Bonny, and together they had 3 sons. Sadly their first-born son was severely handicapped and died aged 14 years old but during those short years he gave Brendan much joy and his loss affected him greatly. Later, moving to Laytons in the City, and now married to his second wife, Sara, he consolidated his position as a highly respected specialist in trust and probate law. He lectured for the Law Society and became an active member of various committees, most recently chairing the London central branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. Brendan was a life-long Aston Villa supporter, a real sports enthusiast who enjoyed running, skiing, playing football, squash and golf. He was also a great lover of music and had a huge collection of all genres of music. Most of all though, he loved his boys, taking them away on activity holidays whenever he could and spending nearly every weekend with them. Brendan had a great sense of fun and my enduring memory is of his laughing, even in the face of adversity. That "strong ironic laugh" as Bert Stroud so eloquently put it, but also that mischievous giggle that got us into trouble so many times as children. I see him again in my 26 year old son, Brendan's godson – hearing him laugh, seeing his wry grin and watching him flick his sisters with the tea-towel is like turning the clock back. Brendan was always so proud that Dan was such a "chip off the old block"! The packed funeral service and the profusion of floral tributes were a testament to the high regard in which Brendan was held by family, friends and colleagues. He was a devoted and loving father, a loyal brother and a very supportive son – life is not the same without him. The family and I were very touched by everyone's kind messages of condolence and would like to thank you all. Most especially we would like to thank Jane Gunner whose support and friendship has been invaluable at this difficult time.

From Spain, **Robert Stroud** wrote:

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my old friend Brendan Hall. I remember Brendan from 1971-76 as a fellow 3rd form starter. We newcomers had a lot to catch up on socially to integrate with the hardened Rendcombians who had been through 2 years together. Brendan was outwardly calmer than I was and used his wits to survive. And that strong ironic laugh. I will never forget that laugh that bore the optimism that won out against adversity. Towards the end of my time at Rendcomb, before fate threw us all to the four winds, in most cases never to meet again, came the final swotting for A levels. Brendan and I were in the same French class and spent hours testing each other on long lists of recommended vocabulary. Over the last 30 years my working life has taken me to France many times for as much as a year at a stretch. Only this last summer I worked in southern France for four months, every day putting those old vocab lists to the test. However easily we lose contact with our old friends it is in the small details that we remember. Every minor detail takes me back to those times at Rendcomb, as it must, for we cannot rewrite the history of our memory. How I could bring out that strong ironic laugh were Brendan here today to hear my updates on the usefulness of those old lists! How quickly it is all over and how few chances we have to go back just one time to say one brief thank you for your friendship. However, my message must be one of sympathy and support to his family especially Sally. Rest in peace mon vieux.

**Reg Tarrant** died in January 2008 aged 95 years. Many older Rendcombians will remember him and his wife Maisie, who died two years ago. They lived next to the old blacksmith's forge in the village; Reg's father was the last of a long line of Rendcomb village blacksmiths. Reg ran a taxi service in the 1930s and then looked after a herd of cattle at the Hammerton House farm, assisted by Maisie. He was a well-known frequenter of the Bathurst and the Bear at Perrott's Brook. He played in the village cricket team, was a governor of North Cerney school and a great raconteur! He was the last of the "old" villagers who had lived all their life in Rendcomb.



**Dr. Ian Stuart Menzies** (1939-47) died in January 2008. From Germany, **Gordon (Rudy) Hale** (1939-46) writes: "Ian and I were in the same form from 1939-1946 – both of us studied botany, zoology and physics for our higher school certificate, being taught by **Dr Ernest Neal, "Dickers" Richards** and **Jack Fell**. After I left Rendcomb in July 1946,

Ian spent a further year there and we did not see each other again until 1996 when we both attended Dr Neal's 85th birthday party in Bedford. I can only relate what Ian himself, and Dr Neal, told me about his life between 1947 and 1996.

Ian qualified as a doctor of medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital where he later did research as a chemical pathologist, but Ian's fame was as a naturalist, specialising in butterflies, moths, beetles and crickets. When he came to Rendcomb he was already an expert lepidopterist, and as related in Dr Neal's autobiography, discovered a colony of Large Blue butterflies – thought to be extinct in the Cotswolds. A few days after his discovery (at Withington, not far from Rendcomb) I accompanied him there: so I was one of the very few people to know the whereabouts of the colony.

Ian's wife, Joan, ran their home as a weekly boarding establishment (she had inherited it from her mother). I stayed with Ian and Joan several times after 1996 when Ian and I visited various sites (Bookham Common, Epsom Common, The North Downs escarpment near Dorking), looking at crickets and looking for various butterflies – but I never did see the Purple Emperors, which Ian said were to be found along the rides in the woods.

Ian contracted a rare viral infection and was only in hospital for 5 days before dying on the 30th January 2008, a few days after his 79th birthday. He had only recently had a heart 'pacemaker' fitted. Ian was very well known in the natural history (entomological) world and will be sadly missed. He was the last surviving member of the Menzies family of his generation. His brother, Jeremy, (also at Rendcomb) and his sister both died several years ago. I believe his collection of insects will go to the Natural History Museum in London. At Rendcomb, Ian will also be remembered for falling out of an oak tree trying to get to rooks' nests and breaking his arm, and also falling over the banister of the main staircase and damaging himself on the radiator below. This happened during one summer holidays when a group of students stayed behind to give the college a good clean. (I was there!!)

**Veronica Elizabeth Parker** (née Thresh) died 24th March 2007.

Only a brief mention of Veronica's tragic death could be made in the last newsletter. **Diane Martin** (née Crew (1975-77)) has sent this tribute:

Veronica was born on 19th February 1960 in Ghana, where her father John was a banker. The family moved shortly afterwards to Nyasaland, subsequently to become Malawi in 1964, where he set up the First Bank of Malawi. Veronica's earliest, and happiest, memories of family life were of the times spent there in Blantyre. As an only child she spent a lot of time with her mother, Helen, who ran a large house and staff and taught Veronica to cook - a skill she excelled in for the rest of her life. Her early school days were spent at St Andrew's in Blantyre, which she was delighted to find little changed when she revisited with her family in recent years.

Life changed dramatically for Veronica when she was taken to England, aged seven, to attend boarding school in Malvern. She was sure that her mother never wanted this separation, but it was part of the lifestyle that families overseas adopted, and there was probably no discussion as to the rights and wrongs of it. This move had a deep and lasting impact on Veronica, which she was only really able to discuss openly in later years when her own daughter Charlotte reached the same age. As a result of many sicknesses in Africa, Veronica was a small child and she remembered that the smallest size of uniform still had to be specially adjusted to fit her. She also underwent elocution lessons to lose the South African accent she had adopted from her teachers in Blantyre. Veronica's aunt has since reflected that once she started school in England it seemed as though

she had 'had the stuffing knocked out of her'.

This early set-back, with much unhappiness and loneliness, led Veronica to develop a very strong inner core, and a tremendous self-reliance. By the time she came to Rendcomb in September 1975, aged only 15, she was an old-hand at boarding and seemed to be very independent for her age. Her father was now working in Hong Kong, but her mother had bought a house in Birtsmorton, near Malvern, and that was to be her base in England for many years. In an article for the 2002 Old Rendcombian newsletter (on the re-opening of Park House as a mixed sixth form house) Veronica wrote fondly of her two years there, and of the kindness and humour shown by Denis and Mary Price. Her memory for the detail of those times went well beyond that which would have been apparent in photographs, and suggests that she really did make the most of her time at Rendcomb, much of it spent with her good friends, **Vicky Joel** (1975-77) and **Anne Wimperis** (1975-77). She studied history, French and English and was not openly sporty, but enjoyed playing squash – sometimes with **Jeremy Read** (1970-77) or **Diane Crew** (1975-77).



*Veronica Thresh, Sally Hall, Jane Watson, Anne Wimperis, Diane Crew.  
Make-up girls, 'Tiger at the Gates', 1977*

On leaving Rendcomb Veronica took a gap year, during which she completed a secretarial course in Oxford and kept in touch with Jeremy. Sadly, her mother died that year in Hong Kong, of a brain tumour that was diagnosed very late. During her last holiday in England with Veronica it would not have been confirmed, so they did not have a chance to say a personal farewell. Tragically, Helen died at much the same age as Veronica.

Veronica's university years were spent in Edinburgh, reading the history of art. On her first day in Pollock Halls of residence she was able to make contact with **Diane**, who had decided during her gap year to read agriculture there. Whilst Edinburgh science and arts students barely mix as their campuses are a couple of miles apart, Veronica and Diane saw each other regularly, and also met up on occasions with **Jane Lyons** (1974-76). For some vacations Veronica would join her father in Hong Kong, but they both spent the Christmas of 1980 at their home in Birtsmorton and Veronica was brave enough to travel back to Edinburgh (over 300 miles) in Diane's rather old (yellow) Renault 4. This was during Veronica's third year at university and she was by now sharing a flat in Marchmont with quite a racy crowd. However, things were not going well in her personal life and she announced quite suddenly that she would not be completing her degree. Her father was an unwilling accomplice, but she did return to join him in Hong Kong and started work almost straight away as a secretary. In Hong Kong Veronica developed a new life. She moved on from secretarial work to writing, had a brief marriage to Joe Chan, and discovered a talent for long distance running. Her running companion from that time recalls that she ran in Hong Kong's Golden Mile, then cross country and then in 10 km races and marathons, running a sub 3 hour marathon on several occasions. Sponsored by Nike, she won the women's division of the Hong Kong marathon in 1987 and ran for Hong Kong ladies team in Manila, Macau and Tokyo. She was also part of the Hong Kong ladies roadrunners team (eight runners and a passenger) for the annual Sedan Chair Race around the Peak in the year that the still unbroken record was set for the women's course. Meanwhile, Veronica's father had retired from Hong Kong back to Birtsmorton and Veronica visited him regularly, giving her a chance to keep in touch with her friends from school.

It was in 1988 that Veronica met Kelvin Parker, a fellow writer and soul mate, with whom she embarked on a life of travel. They moved to Tokyo in October 1989 and Veronica worked as a corporate communications writer. They were married there, as Veronica turned 30, in February 1990 – just the two of them, without the need for outside support. In due course Veronica and Kelvin decided to invest in property back in Europe and,

after a number of exploratory visits, bought a run-down mill in northern Portugal, which was the first of many property renovation projects they would undertake together. They moved there in August 1993 and spent until May 1994 on renovation work before moving back to Hong Kong. They now had their own base in Europe, in addition to their respective family homes in England. Veronica was keen to start a family, and (somewhat reluctantly at first) Kelvin went along with the plan. By the time that they moved to live in a small farmhouse in southwest France, they were expecting their daughter Charlotte, who was born there on 18th September 1996. Motherhood suited Veronica well and she seemed to have a natural and spontaneous approach, which was full of love. The emergence of the internet and email now allowed the Parkers to live a peaceful rural life in France, whilst continuing their writing careers on a freelance basis. The time difference between Europe and Hong Kong meant that work received at the close of the day in Hong Kong, could be completed and returned there by first thing the next morning. However, the idyllic new life had its problems, caused initially by the intimidation tactics of an awkward and violent neighbour exercising her rights of access across the property. Veronica and Kelvin put the house on the market and were all set to move to a larger farmhouse in the area when they found themselves subject to the traditional French right of pre-emption of local farmers. At the eleventh hour of their move the Parkers were told that they had to complete their sale but could not proceed with their purchase and therefore found themselves temporarily homeless. Fortunately they still owned the mill property in Portugal, so relocated there.

There was much work still to be done at the mill, so Veronica and Kelvin devoted themselves to this, with a view to creating a holiday let. Charlotte, always known as Charlie, was two, and was quickly speaking not only English but Portuguese, picked up from her childminder. By the summer of 1999, the mill was ready for holiday lets and the Parkers had found another property to purchase in southwest France. Just before moving they took the opportunity of spending a month in England with their respective families (who had never met) and held a grand party in the garden at Birtsmorton for the occasion of Charlie's christening. On reflection Veronica and Kelvin said that this was, for both Veronica and her father, the start of a happy period of feeling that they belonged together as family.

Once the Parkers were established at their large house near St Girons a constant stream of visitors, from England, Portugal, Hong Kong and Japan, were warmly welcomed, for short or prolonged stays, to enjoy the peace of the rural French setting and delicious meals prepared by Veronica. She had a large vegetable garden and enjoyed getting up very early to spend an hour or so out there before Kelvin and Charlie were awake. Her emails would tell of her recent plantings, and comment on what would be ready for picking by the time one visited. Chickens and sheep were kept for a while, and family pets included various cats, a dog and a pony. Veronica was an accomplished French speaker and seemed to be very much at ease in her new found settled life. She did comment once that all was not quite as easy as it seemed, and one should try explaining technical car problems in French to a garage mechanic, with an anxious husband beside you talking about things you didn't understand in English, let alone French! However, Charlie settled easily into French school life and had a number of good friends, and Veronica had no difficulty in taking full part as a parent, making costumes and baking cakes as required.

This period of peace was to be short lived as Veronica's father died suddenly in November 2001. It was when he didn't ring at 1.00 pm on Sunday, as he always did, that they realised something was wrong. Within a couple of hours contact was made with a local friend who went to the house and found him dead at the foot of the stairs after a fall. Where once the bond between Veronica and her father had not been strong, it had become very strong in the previous two years and John's sudden death, particularly at such a distance from her, was another blow. There had even been plans for him to live with them in France, but that was not to be. With much sadness, Veronica decided to sell her father's house in Birtsmorton.

Over the next year or so, plans emerged for a new adventure in South Africa. Kelvin says that Veronica felt the need to go back to her roots in Africa and was keen that the family should live there for a few years, returning to France in time for Charlie to start at senior school in a French town. Kelvin undertook the initial exploratory visits, and soon found a lovely holiday home in Knysan on the Garden Route. With this foothold in the country the Parkers were able to spend short periods of time there arranging their move, and also receive holiday income in the meanwhile. Their final departure from France was in June 2003, and Veronica was proud to announce that they had trimmed their possessions to just one suitcase each. Charlie was sad to leave behind her friends, but definitely shared her parents' sense of adventure and was very excited at the prospect of their new life in South Africa.

Once in Knysan, with Charlie established in school, Veronica and Kelvin looked for other property to invest in and improve. With much experience of catering for significant numbers during her time in France, Veronica was keen to open a restaurant. They bought a small guesthouse, inland from Knysan at George. Initially a local manager was employed to run the bed and breakfast business, but eventually Veronica decided to do this herself. The restaurant plans were pursued, to the point of obtaining a licence and a full set of china and silver, before the family realised that running a restaurant would leave them little time to spend together as a family. The plan was abandoned but the guest house was extended and improved, and once again the flow of visitors from Europe and the Far East began, with many friends and family thus introduced to the delights of South Africa. The Parkers themselves travelled extensively, within South Africa and to neighbouring countries, to

watch game and wildlife. Veronica was particularly pleased when they revisited her home and old school in Malawi and found so little changed.

Veronica and Charlie took up riding at a local riding school and spent a good deal of time there, training and competing. Meanwhile, at school, Charlie was doing really well, both academically and in sporting and athletic events. Veronica wrote that it was very, very tempting to extend their time in South Africa, where Charlie seemed so happy, but she had realised that “..growing up in an ‘old world’ culture provides a dimension to the personality which is lacking in even the most worldly of South Africans.” Once the move back to France was confirmed, Charlie’s private French lessons were taken very seriously and she wistfully accepted that all would be for the best. After a number of visits to France to look at prospective properties, Veronica and Kelvin finally found a renovation project to suit them at Nerac, near Agen in Lot-et-Garonne.

In their last few days in George, their friends gave the Parkers a rousing send-off, and on 20th March 2007 they set off on a grand trip to see the Victoria Falls and stay in game parks in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. They had a good trip to Victoria Falls and had moved on to an upmarket game park in nearby Hwange National Park when tragedy struck on Saturday 24th March. A rogue elephant turned on the family and their guide during a short walk from their vehicle. The guide was injured and both Veronica and Charlie lost their lives instantly. Kelvin is left to rebuild a life without them, but their memory lives on through his amazing work in setting up the CharChar Trust.

**Elizabeth Scarlett** (1981-83) died in October 2004. Her brother, **Dominic** (1979-86) has sent this tribute: Liz, as she became known to all her friends and family, was born on 18th February 1966 in Germany, the eldest daughter of Carolyn and James Scarlett and elder sister to Dominic, Christopher and Lucy. She died on 29th October 2004 having been knocked off her bicycle whilst cycling to work early one morning.

During the first few years of her life she was a typical child of an army family, moving every few years until James and Carolyn decided to settle in the Cotswolds. Liz, who was academically bright, progressed successfully through the grammar school system and attended Rendcomb for the sixth form before going to University College London to study pharmacology, where she gained an excellent degree. It was during her time at university where she met an enormous variety of people that she really started to blossom into the woman we all knew and loved. She was extremely engaging to the people she met wherever that was; in the street, on the bus, at work or at home and she made no judgement of those who she spent time with. If she recognised something in you and you in her then the conversations that ensued were a kind of poetry – their meaning far greater than the sum of the words used.

After university she moved temporarily and then permanently to Australia, although she met her husband, Colin, an Australian, whilst cycling through the Cotswolds! On 1st June 1991 they were married and although after a few years the marriage didn’t last, they remained extremely close.

Having dabbled in the chemicals industry for a short time in the UK, Liz decided that this was not what she wanted to do and having moved to Australia became an excellent cabinet maker. Her grandfather and uncle would have been very proud to see her beautiful furniture and perfect joinery. After about four years she gave up cabinet making and started a new career with a well-known Sydney architect. Liz drafted plans and co-ordinated the building and renovation of many luxury houses – basically turning ideas into practical reality, a job she both enjoyed and was very good at.

Many of the macho Aussie builders were very surprised to see that a tall, beautiful English woman on a motorbike was there to check their work but they all respected her knowledge of building and her professionalism. She was well on her way to establishing her own business as a master builder.

Liz left a very strong impression on the many people that she met, as well as drawing on them as a source of inspiration. She accepted all her friends and family for whom they were and delighted in their faults and foibles. She was forever understating her own abilities in order to make others feel comfortable. Liz was complex, interesting and a challenge to get to know well, but for those who persisted the relationship was deeply rewarding. For this reason she had a devoted and extremely varied bunch of friends in Australia. They all loved her and were all very loyal; a loyalty that she both deserved and returned. She had a unique perspective on life. She was very kind and generous but had a wicked sense of humour. She could be wonderfully vague and then surprise you with a sharply focussed argument. She was a thoughtful person who understood what really mattered in life.

Although life in Australia was not always perfect and rosy, she grew to be more beautiful, confident and grounded as a result of these tougher times and some difficult relationships. In her own modest way she had become comfortable and happy with whom she was and that she had reached a stage where she had put all grudges and regrets behind her.

One of Liz’s other passions was travelling, preferably on a motorbike and as a result she had visited many of the remoter parts of the world, meeting and integrating with local people and sharing her experiences with her friends. She was certainly a free spirit.

Throughout her life she worked tirelessly for those less fortunate than herself. One of her projects was to support Grace Manor, a centre for those who have lost their way in life. Her estate paid for the building of additional space, which has been dedicated to her. Even in death her memory lives on.

## Memories

In his tribute to **Dr. Ian Stuart Menzies, Gordon Hale** (1939-46) mentions the clear-up gang at the end of the summer term. This was still happening in the 60s. Any memories?

## Travel Bursary

Awards made from 1986-1996

DATE	DESTINATION	APPLICANT
1996	A week in a German school Awarded £200	William Hunt
	Investigation into the geology and history of the Pyrenees Awarded £300.	James Fairbank
1995	College rugby tour of Canada Basketball tour of U.S.A. Awarded £250	John Morgan Rudolf Duhmke
1994	Operation Raleigh to Chile (1995) Awarded £500	Robert Sage
	Tall Ships Race Awarded £100 - £50 from 1993 £50 donation	Rufus Blackwell
1993	British Schools Exploring Society's summer Expedition to British Columbia Awarded £250	Anita Duguid
1992	Inter-railing Awarded £50 each	Chris Carmichael Alex Faiers
	India – voluntary work and then on to Australia and Canada Awarded £350	Sonya Naish
	The remaining £50 went to the college for the Duke of Edinburgh award	
1991	Iceland – British schools exploring society Awarded £100 each	Holly Andrews Aleksandra Maljkovic
	Loch Eil Outward Bound for Duke of Edinburgh award. Awarded £100	James Sleeman
1990	Hong Kong, Thailand, U.S.A. & Australia Awarded £300	Francis Lee James Dowson
1989	Volunteer Counsellor for Muscular Dystrophy in U.S.A. Awarded £300	Justine Platt
1988	Australia £50 awarded but turned down	Mandy Fry Miss K Harman
	Scholarship language course, Osnabruck Awarded £150	Aubrey Powell
1987	Photography – northern England Awarded £50	Daniel Beales
	Exmoor/Dartmoor	C M Adshead

1986	Alpine Climbing Awarded £50	John Shaw
	Contrasts in European culture – visit several European cultural centres Awarded £100	Adam Pullant Alex Hayes
	Lourdes by Jumbulance with Across Trust. Trust enables disabled to visit Lourdes Awarded £100	Katherine Conway

### Unknown Addresses

The Society has lost contact with the following and would be grateful for any information about them:

W S Boardman	H J Phillips
R C Brain	D C Richardson
C W Clarke	L T Robinson
Major R G Collett	H P Smallman
P B Elwell	H L Theobald
C W Honeybone	H I Thomson
G A Lowe	A C Wager
K J Morgan	E Webster
K H Nelson	

### Staff Common Room News



*Photo left to right:*

David Baker from Sutton Valence, Kent replaces Bobby Morgan as Deputy Headmaster and teaches mathematics.

Stacey Scarisbrick, American pupils liaison and biology.

Roy Raby from Pate's Grammar, Cheltenham replaces Andrew Gunning as director of music.

Alan Wilkes, who came to Rendcomb as a supply teacher is now teaching ICT and mathematics.

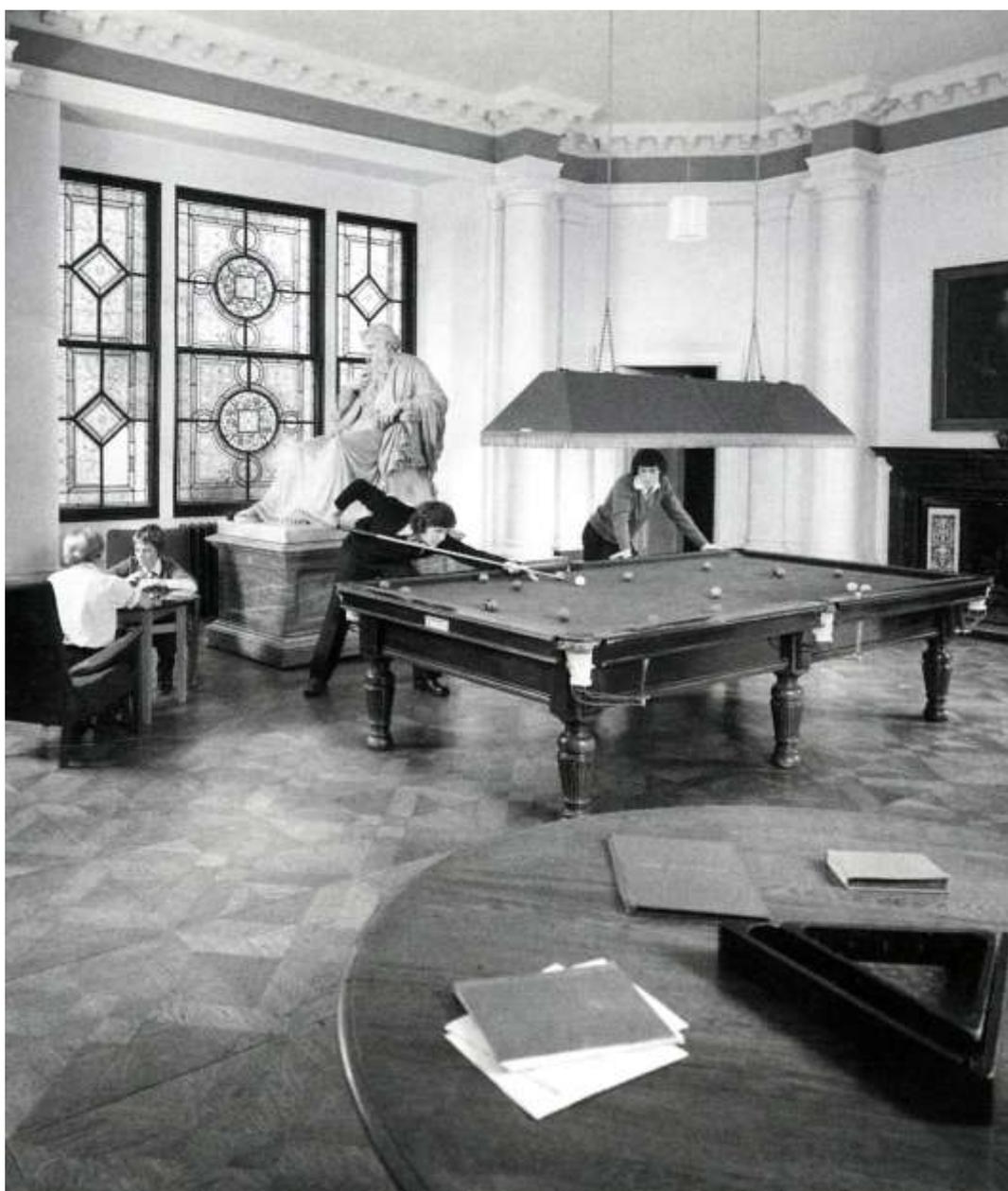
Jen Greenberg from USA to teach lacrosse.

Paul Bevans from Abbotsholme, replaces Neil Havard, to teach physics.

Marina Kinson replaces Bobby Morgan in the teaching of history.

The sixth form names have changed from 6B and 6A to 6L and 6U respectively to avoid the widespread confusion it caused. It may be that some of you were in 6U when seventh term Oxbridge existed. Subjects remain the same except design and technology will be offered as a GCSE from September 2008 and new AS courses begin at the same time. Because of the large school numbers most rooms are now being used. Even the tower is in use again for storage of drama costumes. The snooker table was removed from Saul's Hall in 1995 then languished for a year or two in store until it appeared briefly in School House. Then it was put into store once more and after seven years is now in use again in the Green Room (cellars), which has been redecorated by the students. The snooker table monitor rejoices in the name of Mark Gunner!!!

C.J.W.



Peter Sayers at the snooker table in the 1970s

## The Friends Of Rendcomb College

Registered Charity No: 290373

Update from:

Chairman: Richard Wills, The Snicket, Lower Dean, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 3NS Telephone: 01451 860234

Executive Trustee: Colin Burden, 21 The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos GL7 2ER Telephone: 01285 655240

Aim: To establish bursaries and scholarships for deserving boys and girls from Gloucestershire primary schools who might not otherwise have had the opportunity of a Rendcomb education.

We would like to thank the nine Friends of Rendcomb who responded so generously to our appeal in last year's newsletter. The sum raised was £2,650. On the 26th and 27th October 2007 our "Ultimate Christmas Gift and Food Fair" in conjunction with the Cobalt Appeal Fund, Crack Cancer Campaign – attended by over 1,000 people including a stall run by **Russell Ogden** (1984-89) and **Grant Hughes** (1982-89), raised £7,900 for The Friends. This was a very successful venture and was enjoyed by those Old Rendcombians who came. This year the Gala Preview Night will be held on the 31st October, 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. (entry by ticket only), and 1st November when it will be open to the general public from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The Friends are responsible for the administration and would be pleased to receive items for a raffle, tombola or silent auction. Perhaps you would like to help on one of the days? Do you know of any food producers who would like a stall? Contact Colin Burden for more details.

On the 30th January 2008, 7 Old Rendcombians, spanning 5 decades, met at the college with the headmaster and trustees to discuss possible ways forward for the charity. They looked at potential strategies for use of Friends of Rendcomb funds as well as ideas about how to raise money in the future. The meeting went very well and we hope some interesting ideas and events will emerge.

Those present: Trustees: Gerry Holden (headmaster), Richard Wills, Jane Gunner, Madge Hulbert, Colin Burden. Old Rendcombians: David Vaisey (1945-54), Michael Edwards (1948-54), Geoff Smith (1960-67), Chris Wood (1965-71), Ian Reid (1969-76), Keith Winnill (1972-79), Richard Deacon (1976-83), Charlie Paine (1983-90).

## Sports

Rugby reunion – Saturday 1st December 2007



Ben Butler (1993-99)  
Paul Allen  
Simon Barrett (1986-93)  
Charles Yardley (1988-93)  
Charlie Barton (1990-97)  
Rich Witchell (1992-97)  
James Tarleton (2001-06)  
William Brittan-Jones (1992-97)  
Ali Harris (1989-96)  
Andy Platt (1986-93)  
Nick Cliff (Cheltenham player who kindly helped make up the numbers)

Patrick Boydell (1985-90)  
Ian Thompson  
Fran Barton (1988-95)  
Pat Morgan (1986-93)  
Phil Webb (1992-99)  
Tommy Lait (1996-03)  
Theo Hare (1986-93)  
Chris Scott (2001-06)  
Charlie Hutton-Potts (1976-83)  
Geoff Hulbert (2000-05)  
James De Lisle Wells (1990-95)

After a keen response to the December reunion being advertised, I had high hopes of a return to the old days where a mass of OR's from different years all came together and shared an ever strong connection with the school... and so, I am glad to say, it turned out to be.

With a strong contingent from the '93, '95, '01 '03 and '05 leavers and players from over eight different year groups in all, we had initially planned for an 'OR's Select Side' to play Cheltenham rugby club 3rd's. We soon realised however, with thirty minutes to go, that the opposition tally was only one! With some hasty rearranging we still managed to form two OR's sides of relatively equal calibre and played three twenty minute quarters (we ran out of steam and all feeling in our legs) with a final score of 26-17. The game was full of dashing runs, great agility and skill the likes of which has probably not graced the Rendcomb game's fields for a very, very long time – it is one trait of all OR's that their talent grows stronger with age... as usual it was a definitive display of champagne rugby.

There were many highlights to the match but the one that struck me most was Rendcomb strength of continuing in the face of a pounding... in this case from the weather which welcomed us with 60mph icy winds driving hail into our increasingly numbing bodies.... Anyone who has forgotten what it can be like to play 'Up Top' certainly got their fair share of nostalgia! Special mention should also go to the many spectators, both OR's and teachers past and present who braved this onset to show their support, with Bill White and Jane Gunner lasting the longest!

After the game we indulged in the delights that are sausages, beans and chips down at the school before meeting at the Colesbourne inn for a drink or two, everyone then drifting off before the social event in evening.

This too was a great success. Meeting in 'Bar Copa' in Cheltenham before moving onwards and upwards to one of the local clubs. I was glad that so many leavers entered into the spirit of things by mixing with everyone and by the end of the night we had forty five (plus) OR's, from countless years, having what seemed to be a very happy time of things! I sincerely hope that this is a sign of things to come and continues to strengthen what had, in recent years, been a dwindling OR's event. Many thanks to all those who came to play, watch, drink, talk, dance and recollect good times... see you all soon!

Pat Boydell.

\*If you have any questions about any aspect of OR's reunions you can e-mail me at [patrickb@tindirect.com](mailto:patrickb@tindirect.com) or call on 07968 824414.

### **Destination of 6A Leavers 2007**

Charlotte Cox	University of Portsmouth	Geography
Astrid Elsen	Applying Cambridge University	French & Italian
George Finlay	University of Exeter	Economics and Finance
Harry Frost	University of Exeter	English
Amanda Graham	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	Stage Management
Toby Harris	University of Gloucester	Marketing Management and Branding
Jade Harrison	University of Cardiff	Medicine
Alexander Holden	University of Cardiff	Music
Matthew Hook	University of Durham	Chemistry (Industrial)
Bei Hu	University of Coventry	Business and Finance
Yehui Jin	Queen Mary College, University of London	Mathematics and Statistics
Cheuk Ki Leung	University of Sheffield	Computer Science
Pok Hong Leung	University of Loughborough	International Relations
Wai Yan Leung	University of Bath	Pharmacy
Eddy Li	Hong Kong	Computer Games Design
Wei Lu	Cambridge University	Natural Sciences
Kirki Matthew	University of Sussex	Philosophy
Joanne Maxted	University of Southampton	Geography
Qing Peng	University of Coventry	Business Economics
Beth Sampson	Bath Spa University	Art/Drama Studies
Cristin Schroeder	Bristol University West of England	Architecture and Planning
Lu Sun	Queen Mary College, University of London	Mathematics
Paul Taylor	Aston University	Computing for Business
Max Webb-Dickin	University of Plymouth	Marine Biology and Oceanography
Richard Whittles	University of Bristol	Medicine
Carra Williams	University of Cardiff	Earth Sciences



Presentation of a College print to Bobby and Ester Morgan at the Summer Reunion 2007

**Hockey Reunion 16th March 2008**



1st Men  
 Start 14:45  
 Umpires: ASB & JHS  
 Won 2-1

Freddy Lait (1994-01)  
 Tommy Lait (1996-03)  
 Jamie Burley (2000-07)  
 Duncan Bond (1996-03)  
 Alex Holden (2000-07) (played for the College)  
 Toby Harris  
 Dom Sharman (1993-99)  
 Tristan Sharman (1993-97)  
 Phil Moore (1980-87)  
 Paul Bongiovanni (1994-01)  
 Harvey Davies (1993-98)  
 Charlie Barton (1990-97)  
 Phil Webb (1992-99)  
 Sam Maylott (1991-98)  
 Dave Roper (1995-2003)  
 Ian Thompson  
 Ben Crane (2002-2007)

2nd Men  
 Start 13:30  
 Umpires: JHS & CJW  
 Lost 4-1

Craig Marcham (1989-96)  
 William Brittain-Jones (1992-97)  
 Armen Topalian (1988-93)  
 Charles Yardley (1988-93)  
 Jon Williams  
 Phil Webb (1992-99)  
 Ed Hutchinson (1999-04)  
 Ian Thompson  
 Pete Croft (1986-93)  
 John Morgan (1988-95)  
 Pat Morgan (1986-93)  
 Adam Beales (1989-93)  
 Rufus Blackwell (1988-93)  
 Toby Abbott (1991-98)  
 Andrew Forshaw (2002-07)

Another success!

Things really kicked off on Saturday from about lunchtime with twenty-five of us meeting in Cheltenham to watch England regain some pride and Wales punishing France in the climax of the Six Nations rugby.... It goes without saying that that time ran away with us as a few drinks were consumed amongst a jolly atmosphere of banter.... Gladly, after the last few reunions people were increasingly comfortable mixing between years and the spirit of the day was relaxed and happy. It obviously continued in this way until age or alcohol got the better of us! Luckily, despite the partying, we had a full turn out the next day for the hockey. Two teams were fielded to play the school first and seconds teams, the latter gaining a strong 4-1 result against an ageing OR's 'All Stars' elite. What the OR's lacked in fitness and pace was certainly made up for with guile and cunning on the ball, alas however, not enough to match the fitness of their younger opponents. The first's game was a closely contested match in all elements with both teams pushing each other to play better. With a snappy opportune goal from Dominic Sharman and a showman's short corner assisted by Ian Thompson and converted by the humble Sam Maylott, the school was really up against it in a final 2-1 defeat to the guests. Many thanks to the school players, the standard was genuinely high in both games and spectators had an enjoyable afternoon of viewing. Many thanks also to all who came to support and play, I certainly noticed a buzz that followed on from December's meeting. May this continue in the days to come, I am sure it will.

Hopefully will see some more of you soon.

Pat Boydell.

\*If you have any questions about any aspect of OR's reunions you can e-mail me at [patrickb@tindirect.com](mailto:patrickb@tindirect.com) or call on 07968824414.



### **Reunion of 2001 Vth Form leavers, Summer 2007**

The reunion was organised by Tommy Lait (1996-03).



From left to right: Sam Gunner, Tommy Lait, Greg Jones, Zuki Turner, Matt Harbottle, Emma Cassidy Gray, Matt Ewing, Holly Earl, Hannah Ewing, Giles Drew, Matt Hutchins, Duncan Bond, Jonathan Thomson, Imogen Eaton, Henry Wilson, Leanne Evans.