

# **Old Rendcombian Society**

## **NEWSLETTER**



**MAY 2010**

**36th ISSUE**

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## Society Officers

At the annual general meeting on 28th June 2009 the following officers were elected:-

President:	Bill White (Staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 3JG Tel: (01451 860943)
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-Chairman:	Patrick Boydell (1988-95)
Secretary:	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: (01285) 658627 Fax: (01285) 658717 Email: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer:	Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff: 1976-2009) 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 3JF Tel: (01451) 860871 Email: chriswood99@btinternet.com
School representative:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Fiona Burge (1988-90) Tommy Lait (1996-2003) Jessica Weston (1998-2005) Stephen Jones (1988-95) Dominic Sharman (1993-99)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG Tel: (01296) 582741 Email: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

## Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting

Held on 28th June 2009 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College

Present: Philip Griffiths (1940-43), Julian Comrie (1946-54), Gerry Holden (Headmaster: 1999-), Colin Burden (Staff: 1963-97), Chris Wood (1965-71; staff: 1976-2009), Bill White (staff 1961-97), Jane Gunner (née Watson) (1975-77), Michael Miles (1943-50), Mark Gunner (2001-08), David Williams (1966-71), Luke Gunner (1998-05), Hartley Moore (1964-71), Nigel Green (1961-69), Stephen Merrett (1951-57), Alex Brealy (1980-87; staff 1994-), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Roy Edwards (1972-79), Nigel Hall (1972-79), Roger Medill (Headmaster: 1971-87), Tessa Hicks (1974-76).

1. Apologies: Fiona Burge (née Reichwald) (1988-90), Patrick Boydell (1988-95), Laurence Wragg (1956-63), David Wragg (1992-97), Philip Quick (1945-50), Tommy Lait (1996-2003), Stephen Jones (1988-95), Jessica Weston (1998-2005)

2. To receive the minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting held on 29th June 2008 as published in 2009 newsletter.

3. Matters arising out of the minutes

The Headmaster reported that Alex Holden, who had visited Lords Meade School in Uganda last year with help from the OR Travel Bursary, would be returning this summer for the opening of the Rendcomb African Hall. The Headmaster expressed Alex's thanks to the Society. Another ex-pupil Sian Clift was on her way out to Lords Mead School this week, in part funded by the OR Travel Bursary.

4. To receive the Treasurer's report

Chris Wood presented the annual accounts and reported that they had been audited by David Williams, the Honorary Auditor. He thanked David for doing so. Chris Wood explained that historically pupils had paid a one off subscription when they left the College but latterly there had been a £5.00/term levy. This new system had now worked its way through the College so that everyone had now been paying £5.00 since the start of their time at the College. It had been agreed at the 2008 AG.M that it should be raised to £5.50/term but due to accounting problems this would not now be happening until September this year.

Chris then ran through the rest of the accounts. The old stock of clothes was being sold off at half price. There were now not many items left.

Chris also explained that costs of socials were up again because of the excellent work done by Pat Boydell, ably seconded by Tommy Lait in organising the sports side of the Society. There had been an occasion when the reunion clashed with OR day and the College had not been able to provide a match tea, so it had been bought at a local hostelry instead. The meeting expressed its thanks to Pat and Tommy.

The increase in the newsletter cost was because of its increased size due to tributes to retiring staff and although the postage was expensive the College had kindly franked the envelopes, which meant they went out at a reduced rate.

As with all savings deposits nationally interest had dropped.

With regard to the travel bursary, payouts had been playing catch-up because of the fact that no bursaries had been given out in 2007. This meant £2000 had been paid in this financial year.

The meeting had last year expressed the wish that the Kathleen James fund should now be wound up and that suitable books should be purchased with it. As this had not happened, it was agreed that the committee would purchase the books and donate them. This was proposed by Roy Edwards and seconded by Roger Medill and passed unanimously.

The chairman thanked Chris Wood and David Williams on behalf of the meeting.

#### 5. Election of Officers

The secretary reported that Fiona Burge wished to step down as vice chairman but wished to remain on the committee. There had been one nomination for the post and that was Pat Boydell, who was proposed by Neil Lumby, seconded by Colin Burden, he was elected unanimously.

#### 6. Nominations for 1 committee member

There had been one nomination received by the committee. Dominic Sharman had been proposed by Pat Boydell, seconded by Jane Gunner and his appointment was passed unanimously.

#### 7. Travel Bursary

The committee recommended that £1,000 should be allocated to the Travel Bursary. There had also been discussion with the College about facilitating enterprise and business skills. It was agreed that a limit of £500.00 should be made available but if it were not taken up, the amount would not be transferred to the Travel Bursary.

#### 8. Any other business

Colin Burden drew the meeting's attention to page 56 of the 2009 newsletter and his report about the Friends of Rendcomb. He was pleased to report that Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan, 1974-76) had also agreed to join the committee. The trust currently had deposits of £78,000, which were only earning 0.01% interest. He felt the best use of the money would be to spend it on scholarships and was waiting for the Headmaster to nominate suitable candidates, which the Headmaster said he would be doing that day.

Colin said he had received no additional responses from his appeal since last year and the Cobalt Unit had decided to no longer hold the Ultimate Gift and Food Fair as they felt it generated an insufficient return for the effort put in.

The Headmaster then reported that this week's lessons for Years 1 and 4 had given way to a music, arts and drama festival. He also said that next year he would be reporting on five test cases with the Charity Commission about Public Benefit

The Chairman reported that Julian Comrie had decided to stand down from the Committee after twelve years during which he has made an immense contribution both as Chairman and President for which the Society was deeply grateful. In reply Julian expressed the depth of his feelings for the College and the benefit it brings to its pupils and alumni.

The Committee was thanked for all it did to keep the Society strong with special thanks to Pat and Tommy for speaking to the sixth form, which had been very positively received.

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

The Chairman thanked the Headmaster for welcoming the Society and for making the College open for the day.

The meeting ended at 12.45 p.m.

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

Sunday 27th June timetable:

10.30 a.m.	Coffee in Clock Hall
11.15 a.m.	Cricket match
12 noon	Bar
12.00 p.m.	AGM in Room E1
1.00 p.m.	Hot Lunch with vegetarian option for cricketers and visitors. Main course to be collected from Served for lunch in Reading Room. No charge: donations to O.R. Society
2.30 p.m.	Cricket Match resumes on Top
4.30 p.m.	Tea in Pavilion

All are welcome, not just those playing or having a year group reunion.

Rugby:	Saturday 4th December 2010
Hockey:	Saturday 26th March 2011 (provisional)
Cricket:	to be confirmed

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

## **Sports Contacts**

Alex Brealy BrealyA@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk  
Tel: 01285 832314 (W) and 01285 832363 (H)  
Rugby: Tommy Lait, tommy.lait@yahoo.co.uk  
Hockey: Dominic Sharman, sharman\_uk@yahoo.co.uk  
Girls' sports: Jess Weston 07969 177437, jess\_weston@hotmail.com

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

## **Annual General Meeting**

You are invited to attend the 77th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 27th June 2010 at Rendcomb College at 12.15 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 76th A.G.M. held on 28th June 2009
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Officers
6. Nominations for 1 committee member  
All proposed and seconded nominations to reach Secretary by 14th June 2010
7. Travel Bursary
8. Any other business
9. Vote of thanks to the College

## **The Newsletter**

This edition of the newsletter could not rival the last bumper edition occasioned by the retirements of so many key players from the school, but it does contain material from many of the stages of Rendcomb's development. However, the history of the school is still incomplete, despite the efforts of the committee to tidy up loose ends; we still lack photographs, especially from the period 1970-2009. Any contributions to the archives would be welcome, as we are compiling a book of photographs. Moreover, we have a complete collection of the school magazine, except for Vol 14 no 5 from July 1968 (it was then called the Rendcomb College Chronicle) so if anybody would like to forward a copy, we would welcome it (but no other editions, please)! Other matters exercising the minds of the committee include the travel bursaries, which continue to create interest within the sixth form, and how to deal with leavers from the junior school, or "JORS". We have also discussed at length the recent controversy over the changes in school uniform and the apparently growing similarity between the fees for Rendcomb and for Cheltenham College. The Headmaster has noted the Society's concern. As ever, readers are invited to contribute.

Richard Tudor

## **30 Years On - 28th June 2009**

OR's reunion - Class of 1979 June 2009

Keith Winmill and David Marshall organised a gathering of those who left the VIth form in 1979 or Vth form in 1977.

The morning of 28 June 2009 broke to clear blue skies and what promised to be, as meteorologists would say, "a warm one". All was set fair for the Class of 1979 OR's reunion "30 years since we left" subset. Planning had began some 8 months previous with myself and Dave Marshall "project managing" a scheme of contacting people, writing the odd article for the OR newsletter, e-mailing and ringing people on several occasions – so now was the day of reckoning!

Expectations of a "double digit" attendance could not be dampened, despite a few calls on the day from the Class of 79 sending their apologies for several reasons (and a promise that they would attend the next one - so CARE, you know who you are and you know you WILL be attending the next gathering!) so how many would we have.... ?

Arriving at the college (which incidentally looked resplendent in a plethora of bunting to celebrate not only our

gathering (!) but also the MAD (Music and Drama) festival that had occurred the previous week) at a little after 11:00am, we were met by the “signing in committee” of Jane Gunner and Neil Lumby, to be told that there was already a throng (there is no definitive amount to the definition of a throng, but suffice to say it had to be more than 1!) of our year in residence – huge sigh of relief from the both of us!

Alighting under the clock (which incidentally still produces that booming “tick”) we met – peculiar as it may sound, the initial reaction was noting that we all looked not dissimilar to that day in July 1979 when we all left – true, there was perhaps the odd greying (or should that be “distinguished silver”?) hair, and perhaps, just the odd extra pound (!). After a few minutes of needless introductions, reminiscences began a plenty and the old humour and camaraderie returned as if we had never been away.

As the conversations engulfed us, it was then announced that luncheon was served in the dining room and so we retired for sustenance. Gone were the trolleys (although some remembered the irreplaceable Ron Fry and his regular edict “13’s on the bottom”!), to be replaced by the excellent buffet style serving areas. Thanks, as always, must be recorded to the Headmaster and the College for providing this.... and without doubt there was a feeling of a little envy for the current pupils for such a high standard of luncheon options. (In the words of the food critic Michael Winner, the treacle tart was “historic”).

At the end of eating lunch there were a number of presentations to retiring members of staff. At this point I have to admit that I never really bought into the Oscar Wilde story of Dorian Gray, BUT seeing “our” contemporary staff (most notably Colin Burden, Roger Medill, Bill White and Chris “ever youthful” Wood), I may concede that there must be 4 additional portraits in lofts dotted around the region! It seems that we have all “aged”, if that is the right word, extremely well!!

The group then set out on an abbreviated tour of the Junior House (the “Old Rec”) and Stable Block.

Abbreviated in part to a) the warm and humid weather conditions and b) the lure of chocolate eclairs and tea up Top! Mrs Brealy kindly volunteered as tour guide to the Old Rec, and again for a number of us memories came flooding back. We were heartened to hear that the tradition of “snackers” was alive and well, and the comforting thoughts of a hot chocolate and biscuit post 8pm were warmly commented on.

Upstairs to the dormitories.... and it is at this point that a hint of paranoia sets in! Let me explain: on my last visit to the college, on touring the main building, I was astonished to see that my beloved 6B study on the first floor adjacent to the three classrooms did not carry an historical “Windy studied here” plaque but had, in fact, been turned into a, shall we say “Gentleman’s rest room”! Armed with this psychological scar, I opened the door to dormitory 7 (my very first dormitory back in September 1972, only to be met with the same fate. (Although, I have to concede the facilities were more extensive – so some progress!). A warning therefore has to be



issued to the current occupier of the study on the first floor, four from the end by the kitchen at Park House – I will be visiting again on old boys day soon, so unless you change your name to Armitage Shanks, there could be an eviction!!!

From the Old Rectory we then proceeded to the Stable Block, which seemed to be exactly as we all remembered. An attempt to set our wristwatches by the sundial ensued and proved to be somewhat successful (but we are still to be convinced that Rendcomb time is 5 minutes in front of British summer time!!). Peering through classroom windows, memories flooded back of Mr Wood’s chemistry experiments (and the costly breakages book when a test tube rolled off the bench!); Jack Fell’s and Dr. Smith’s physics (I was terrible at physics!); Brian Hembry’s biology classes and dissection of frogs and of course the electronics room where radios (or should I say crystal sets in the early days - under bedcovers after lights out), electronic gizmos and gadgets were created.

By now the day had turned to very sultry and consequently the draw of Jane’s historic (there’s that word again) cricket teas including the cool cream filled chocolate éclairs was succumbed to and the group swiftly marched back to the ‘asphalt’ for the cars up-top convoy.

Tea, sandwiches and éclairs were dispatched with precision and what was called for then was a couple of hours watching the athletic bowling and fielding of the OR’s team (and it has to be said that this can be done, laying on the grass, with one’s eyes closed – yes, it IS possible!). On the conclusion of the match the end to a perfect day could only mean one thing: the Bathurst Arms!

Post lunch, the traditional “team line up” photo was taken:



And for those of you unable to recognise the youthful band, they are:

From left to right: Simon Howell, Shaun Brennan, Dave Beanland, Dave Marshall, Nigel Hall, Keith Winmill, Mark Middlemist (and young Master Middlemist), Mark Webb, Mike Cannon, Roy Edwards and Chris Morshead (and photography kindly provided by Colin Hitchcock)

So the final destination was reached and time was spent in the cool of the beer garden (sadly the stable bar with the PacMan had disappeared but that’s progress for you!) with the remnants of the group and a few (now) retired masters and their family and friends. A fitting end!

Final thought – an enjoyable day, seeing some “old” friends and almost like the BBC TV series Ashes to Ashes being teleported back to “our era” of the 1970’s. Shall we do it again – of course we will! Current thoughts are that the next milestone is in 2012 (i.e. “40 years since the class of 1972 started”), so start pencilling it in your diaries!

And a final thank you again to the College for their hosting of these events; thanks to the masters, old and new for their attentiveness to us “old uns” and lastly, but by no means least, to Jane Gunner for her continued unstinting support and work to make these days the success that they are. Bring on 2012!!

Keith Winmill (aka “Windy”) and Dave Marshall

### **35 Years On - 27th June 2010**

There is a reunion planned for those who left in 1975 on the summer OR’s day. The current conspirators include Des Knox, Jon Dixon, Stuart Honeyball and Rob Weston, who can all be contacted online via the OR’s website or Facebook.

### **30 Years On - 27th June 2010**

Calling the leavers of 1980!

Leavers from 1980 are planning to get together at the summer reunion. Definite takers include Tim Etherington, Nick Miles, Frank Peplow, Nick Price, Richard Pitt, Richard Tudor and Mike Twinning, but we hope to pin down a few more as the date gets closer. If we have not yet been in touch, we will be! There is a potential meal at the Bathurst (where there are still some rooms available) on the evening before, i.e. Saturday 26th June 2010. Please speak to any of the above for more information.

## 15 Years On – 26th June 2010

Rendcomb Leavers of '89, '90

Organisers: Fi Burge (née Reichwald) & Charlie Jeffery (née Stephens)

Location: London, venue: TBC

Further information on Facebook under the link of “Rendcomb Leavers of ‘89 & ‘90!” Leavers of 91 are also more than welcome to get in touch!

Email: fionasjcburge72@btinternet.com or charlie.scoja@btinternet.com

## The Chronicle

Bill White and Chris Wood have been going through the Society’s archives and have discovered that it holds a copy of every single Chronicle except Vol. 14 no.5, July 1968. Bill and Chris would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could bear to part with a copy to complete the collection. They do not need any others.

Thanks Ed.

## Photographs 1970-2010

Your photos needed!

The OR Society in conjunction with the school aim to publish *A History of Rendcomb College in Photos* in 2011. Bill White and Chris Wood invite you to provide them with any photos you may have, whether they are formal or informal. The more photos we have and the more complete the book is, the more it will be enjoyed by everyone so please get involved! Prints will be scanned and returned as soon as possible. Please remember to state the year of the photo, any names of people in photos and, if not obvious, the place.

If you prefer to scan prints yourself please scan at 600dpi and save as a jpeg file.

Scans and digital photos should be sent to chriswood99@btinternet.com.

Prints should be sent to Chris Wood, 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, GL54 3JF

## OR Advent Service

An OR musical event is being organised for Sunday, December 5th 2010. It promises to be a fabulous afternoon of reminiscing, laughter and above all, the opportunity for OR’s to get together for a good sing. The service will be in the evening. To sign up, or for further details, please contact Claire Germaine at cgermaine01@aol.com or Naomi Gibbons at naomigibbons@hotmail.com

## Congratulations

<b>Jonathan Freeman</b> (1991-98)	PhD Clinical Psychology, Cardiff
<b>Tom Mais</b> (1994-2000)	Phd, Loughborough University
<b>Rebecca Maxted</b> (1999-06)	1st Class Hons English, Exeter University
<b>Polly Rudderham</b> (1999-2004)	1st Class Hons, Psychology Lancaster University.
<b>Duncan Taylor</b> (1972-79)	PhD Economic history, ‘The maritime trade of the smaller Bristol Channel ports in the sixteenth century’, Bristol University
<b>Jessica Weston</b> (1998-2005)	1st Class Hons MSc., Geography, Bristol University

## Births

**James** (1990-97) and Louise **Emerson** on 8th May 2009 a son, Jack

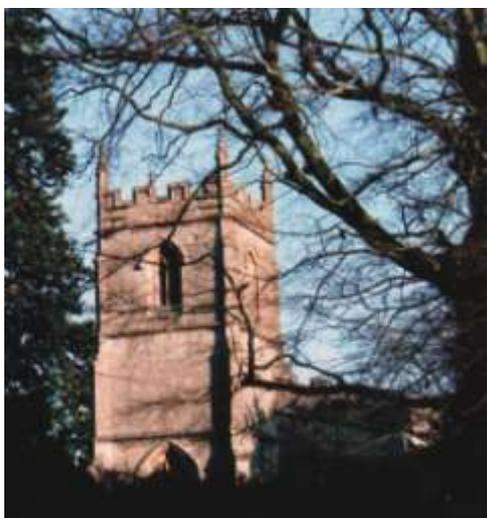
**Rachel** (née Gilyead) (1996-98) and **Tim Hill** (1991-98) on 8th February 2010 a son, Lucas Alexander.

## Marriages

**Ian Thompson** (1988-95) married Naomi Keenlyside on Sat 5th December 2009 at the Greenway Country Hotel, Shurdington, Cheltenham.



Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Thompson!



OR's **Mark Wilks**, **Patrick Boydell** and **Chris Jarrett** were in attendance on this warm and special day.



**Matthew Smith** (1987-92) married Gillian McInnes at Rendcomb Church on 30th May 2009 and held their reception in the main building.

Their guests included the 12 ORs pictured below:



Back Row:- **Graham Lawton** (1985-92), **Andrew Pollard** (1985-92), **Matthew Norman** (1985-92), **Jon Powell** (1987-92), **Tim Underwood** (1985-92)

Middle Row:- **Will King** (1984-91), **James Grafton** (1985-92), **Matthew Smith** (1987-92), **Antony Palin** (1985-92), **Henry Pugh** 1985-92, **Jeremy Sawtell** 1986-93;

Front: **Rosie Moser** (1990-92)

## Obituaries

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

**David Little** (1957-65) was born in Gloucester in July 1946 and lived in Longford, attending Twigworth C of E Primary School before winning a scholarship to Rendcomb in 1957.

Whilst at Rendcomb he enjoyed taking part in school plays, singing in the choir and bell-ringing, and took a very active part in rugby, hockey, cricket and tennis. He was sufficiently good at cricket to play for Gloucestershire Schoolboys XI. Unfortunately his term as captain of the rugby 1st XV was curtailed by suffering a broken leg in the first match of the season. That term, no fewer than four of us (4% of the College!) had a leg in plaster... David, Peter Little (his brother, 1960-67), Robert Laws (1956-63) (and Sebastian Greenlaw! (1957-65)).

Perhaps David's most striking claim to fame whilst at Rendcomb was being the first person, (perhaps still, the only person), to be made a prefect twice! After the old boys' hockey match he broke regulations and, even as a prefect, went off to the Green Dragon pub in the nearby village of Cowley with some of the old boys, only to get caught and stripped of being a prefect - "debagged" as it was called in those days, as only the prefects wore long trousers! However, two terms later, the headmaster, Anthony Quick, invited David into his study and delivered the immortal words to him... "David, I would like to make you a prefect – again!"

David studied English, French and History in the 6th form, and subsequently went to Hull University where he studied English, played hockey (as captain), and met his wife, Janet Atkins. After graduating, David trained with the NHS for personnel management, and after marrying in 1969, lived in Doncaster, and then Lambley near Nottingham before joining the Winchester Health Authority in 1983 and settling in Twyford near Winchester with their children, Kate and Hugh. Janet sadly died in 1988 aged 42.

More recently, David also worked for the NHS in Southampton and Guildford as Director of Human Resources before taking redundancy and early retirement. He married Valerie Houlst in 1993. He led a very active life in his local village, being chairman of the Twinning Association, in which he made good use of David Sells' efforts in the French classroom on bibulous exchange visits to France, and as Churchwarden. He continued bell-ringing, and played for the local golf team, "The Old Farts", in-between walking his dogs, holidaying with Valerie and enjoying a very happy family life.

David never lost touch with his native Gloucestershire and even in his final period in hospital proudly sported his Gloucester rugby shirt. David died peacefully at home on 31st December 2008.

Peter Little

**John Alexander Dow**, 1948 - 2008, (OR 1959 - 66). John's wife Ruth writes:

John Dow was a man who stood head and shoulders above his peers, in more ways than one. At 6' 6" in his stocking feet and with abundant red-gold hair, he was not easily missed in a crowd.

In his schooldays, John

- followed the Dow family bent for art (both his parents were artists), regularly producing striking scenery for the school plays and acting as picture man
- struck a negative "1st" by driving the Motor Club's chassis-less hybrid vehicle into a bridge at speed
- was a regular contributor to the Literary Soc, spreading doom and despondency liberally in his dark poetry
- was a long-time member of the Rugby first team, where his height was a boon

His younger brother, Martin, was also a pupil at Rendcomb.

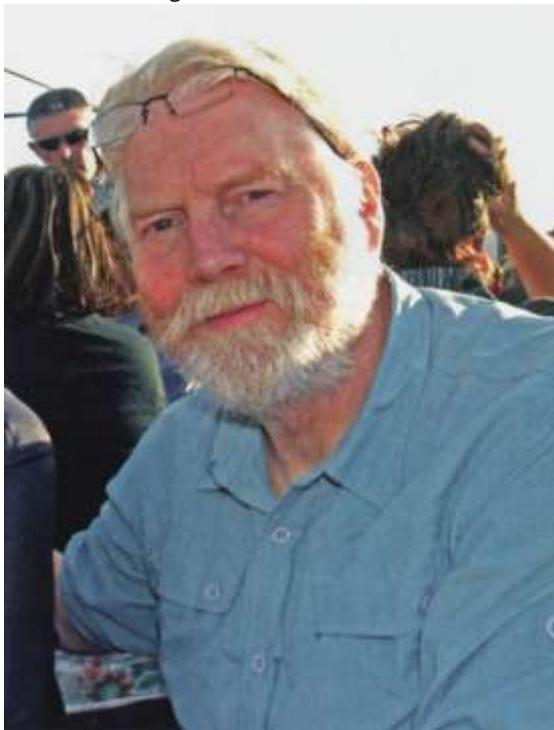
After leaving Rendcomb with A-levels in maths, physics and chemistry, John studied engineering at Cardiff University, and thereafter spent the majority of his working life at Wales Gas, Cardiff (as an organisation and methods specialist) and in various design and management roles in Welsh Health. He was latterly head of Radiology Information Systems (RadIS), an acknowledged expert in the integration of disparate hospital radiology records via MS Windows and internet links. His robust and evolving system designs were used extensively in Welsh hospitals and beyond.

Outside work, John was renowned for his abiding love of the outdoors, his unbounded enthusiasm for hobbies, and his creativity. Mercifully, he gave up writing tortured poetry in his mid 20s, but his fascination for geology and fossils, his eclectic tastes in music and considerable talent for pottery have all left a personal legacy of inimitable breadth and quality. Among his friends and family John was renowned for his lifelong passion for photography; whilst sorting through his camera



equipment in recent months I found no less than 29 cameras. He took thousands of photos and examples of some of his later digital work can be found at [www.pippapix.co.uk](http://www.pippapix.co.uk).

John married twice; to Sue, with whom he had two daughters (Emma and Kate) and then to Ruth, with whom he had a son (Alex) and a third daughter (Rosemary). He was an involved and supportive father, whose enthusiasm for his children and their pursuits was (and still is) a great source of encouragement to them. John also became a grandfather three times and we had a particularly memorable month in Australia in 2006, when



we stayed with John's second daughter Kate just after his first grandchild Henry was born.

Unfortunately, John's health became a persistent issue during his final years. Whilst still in full-time employment, he was diagnosed with Goodpasture's Syndrome, a rare auto-immune disease that effects kidney and lung function. Despite a regime of aggressive treatment, John died suddenly at the Heath Hospital, Cardiff on 14 Nov 2008, and was laid to rest in the Welsh countryside he so loved, at Usk Castle Chase in Monmouthshire.

John's family, friends and colleagues count themselves fortunate to have lived alongside a man of his stature – he was a capable, intelligent, honorable, artistic, funny and loving man. He is much missed.

If any of his former school friends would like to donate in his memory, I would be glad to forward cheques to Imperial College London, who co-ordinate UK research into Goodpasture's Syndrome. As the disease is so rare (approx. 1 in 2 million), this research receives no government funding. Jane Gunner can provide my contact details.

### **Staff Leaving Presentations 2009**



Thanks to the combined efforts of lots of people, the OR Society were able to give Derek Coombes, Penny and Chris Wood and Sophie Blackwell a great send off at the summer reunion on 28th June 2009.

The chemistry department in the guise of Joy Gibson and Jo Bond had put together a surprise exhibition in the Reading Room to chronicle Chris Wood's 33 years at the College, along with a skeleton sporting his 47 year old lab coat. There were also many photos of his time from being a pupil through his teaching years to the present day. Chris entered the dining room through a cloud of smoke to the strains of 'Also Sprach Zarathustra', played by Mark Gunner (2001-08) on the grand piano.

After a well-attended lunch, presentations were made to the leaving staff. Bill White opened the proceedings and invited Chris Wood to commence with a tribute to Derek's 26-year contribution to the College and Sam

Gunner (1996-2003) (who had battled through a series of public transport crises to get there just in time) presented him with a framed print of the College.



Bill White outlined Sophie Blackwell's huge contribution to the College over the last 16 years and then Jess Weston (1998-2005) gave a heartfelt tribute to her from a pupil's perception and presented her with a cheque from grateful past pupils. Sophie was also given a framed print of the College and a bouquet of flowers.

Bill White then commenced the tributes to Chris Wood with a witty and poignant speech, which lasted exactly 5mins 40 seconds, the same length as Chris had done for him in 1997. He then invited John Morgan and Steve Jones to speak. John spoke of his time in the Old Rectory when Chris and Penny were the house parents and Steve spoke of Chris's ability to inspire pupils in his capacity as a chemistry teacher. Chris was given a standing ovation and presented with a GPS. Chris and Penny were given a cheque and Penny was presented with a bunch of flowers.



The reunion was also the thirty-year anniversary for those leaving in 1979. Keith Winmill and Dave Marshall had contacted many of their year and were very pleased with the turn out. Jane, Chris, Bill and Colin Burden conducted tours around the buildings. Special thanks to Amanda Brealy who allowed people to visit many old haunts in the Old Rectory.

The day concluded with tea up at the pavilion and to watch the cricket, which was, once again, organised by Pat Boydell (1988-95) and Tommy Lait (1996-2003). Thanks must go to Hannah and Nicola for serving endless cups of tea. To mark Chris Wood's leaving four indoor fireworks were let off.

Chris Wood's speech on the day was as follows:

Like many other ORs, I was lucky enough that my primary school headmaster and my parents found out about this small independent school that provided quality education for Gloucestershire children and with fees related to parental income.

Unlike now, everyone boarded and unlike now it was for boys only. The strong friendships forged and the excellent teaching provided a real springboard for university and I am grateful to Ronnie Caves and Ron Kelsey for setting me on the road to chemistry with their inspirational teaching.

Perhaps it was fate that steered me away from accountancy and towards teaching at Rendcomb but it was certainly the variety which a boarding school offers that attracted me to the job.

You can imagine that it was rather daunting to share a common room with many of my former teachers such as



Penny Wood and the Paparazzi

Bill White, Kaye Knapp, John Willson, John Holt and David Sells, but they turned out to be excellent colleagues who guided me with their true professionalism.

I have been fortunate enough to teach chemistry and physics, coach hockey, cricket and rugby, share my enthusiasm for photography (with one group even doing GCSE) and to help with trips to Russia, Greece, Iceland and Holland. (And talking about trips, did anyone see Chris Terrill on tv recently wearing body armour, a helmet and goggles as he experienced hurricane Ike. Well our trips were a bit like that. What a character! Debbie née Harrison says she heard from Chris on Everest)

One of the most rewarding periods was when Penny and I ran the Junior House (now known as the Old Rectory) from 1985 to 1995. We encouraged many homesick boys to hang in there and then had to channel their enthusiasm when they had settled in. We were very fortunate to be assisted so well by a number of sixth form girl prefects. It was wonderful to have so many memories triggered by the generous tributes in the newsletter and Penny and I are very grateful to those who took the trouble to contribute. After the Junior House I had a go at a few more jobs: Head of Chemistry, Head of Science, Senior Master, Exams Officer and more recently Director of Studies but I'm afraid that I drew the line at Headmaster. Although, being headmaster does mean that you can veto what you don't like! I can remember my first headmaster, Anthony Quick, standing in (this/the) dining room, saying grace (Benedicto, Benedicatur) and suddenly banning tapioca. On another occasion he banned Onward Christian Soldiers because of our over the top singing. If I had been headmaster I would have banned the little 'r' logo but thankfully that did not survive anyway! Almost by default I became the school rep for the OR society so I have been involved in many reunions and it is always pleasing to see former pupils return to their school. This is a strong society, particularly thanks to the efforts of Jane Gunner and Bill White and I hope that it will continue to thrive... and talking of Jane, I may have retired earlier if Jane had not forbidden me to retire until her sons Sam, Luke and Mark had been through my lab.

My entry in the ever-popular newsletter has always seemed incomplete as Chris Wood (1965-71; staff 76-). Well now it can be finished off properly as I hang up my 1972 ICI lab coat (1965-71; staff 1976-2009).

Thank you.

The 2009 newsletter was the first significant reminder that I was indeed retiring and Penny and I really appreciated the trouble ORs had taken putting pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard. It was very pleasant to have our memories jogged to recall such a wealth of happy events involving so many ORs over 33 years. The summer reunion was a truly memorable occasion and we are most appreciative of the efforts of Jane Gunner, Bill White, Joy Gibson, Jo Bond, Mark Naylor and those who spoke about us. I was so pleased to receive the Garmin GPS from the Society and I will be using it when I assess Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions for Rendcomb and other schools in the county. Bill White and I have already path-tested it thoroughly! However the additional cheque was a great surprise and I am very grateful to ORs for their generosity. Needless to say there has been no difficulty in spending it on top quality waterproofs (much appreciated and effective in November!), OS maps, binoculars and a garden bench on which to relax after long walks.

Semi-retirement is working out well. I am still marking and setting exam papers so hopefully the little grey cells will continue to function. I have been persuaded to teach computing to members of the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Northleach so I have not hung up my chalk/pen/laptop quite yet! In fact I have been so busy that I still have not redecorated the kitchen much to Penny's frustration!

I have not severed all contact with Rendcomb: I will continue to serve the OR Society, support school sport, provide mock Oxbridge interviews and assess bronze DoE. I hope to see as many of you as possible at future reunions.

Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff: 1976-2009)



Thank you

What a very lovely send off you gave Chris and me. I was very touched by Jess's kind words and overwhelmed by your generosity, my much appreciated cheque, print of the school and that sumptuous bunch of flowers.

As I said on the day, the school gave both my sons five years of their educational experience, and lots of friends. It gave me eighteen years of glorious art, and lots of friends - how lucky we are.

I wish the school all the very best for the future and this includes the O.R.s as essential glue in keeping everyone in touch.

Again, thank you all so much for your friendship and generosity.

Sophie Blackwell (Staff: 1990-2009)

## Memories

**Philip Quick** (OR 1945 - 50) writes:

I was very interested in the reminiscences of ORs in the last two newsletters. George Davis's memories of Bill Smith (ground staff) made me laugh out loud, as did some of Bill's expressions, which couldn't be printed in this magazine. I had forgotten that Rendcomb had its own Air Training Corps: it must have disbanded before I started in September 1945.

George mentions Steed, as does Geoff Bye. I think he came in Spring Term 1946 and left at the end of the Summer Term. According to the 1971 OR register his names were Simon Patrick, but he was usually known as 'Smokey Joe' because of his addiction to cigarettes (which didn't endear him to DWLB). He then lived at Woodstock and his school number was 28 (I still have a list of all the school numbers in 1945-6). I often wonder what became of him – chairman of Imperial Tobacco perhaps?

Regarding cycling I'm grateful in retrospect for the Headmaster's insistence on all boys passing the cycle test before going out on the public roads; as John Gosden says it bore little relation to road safety but it instilled in me a love of cycling to this day (I still have two bikes). I'm quite sure we had to sign in the cycle book before every ride stating our destination. John mentions Commem. Day: I remember my first one in 1946 when David Humphries and I cycled to his home, a farm at Sandhurst near Gloucester, and going into Gloucester in his father's van with calves in the back. On return we had rabbit for dinner (very common in those days as it was never rationed) and Mr Humphries drove us and bikes back to school. It was nice meeting David a few years

ago at the 2003 informal gathering of 1940-ish ORs.

Regarding the memories of morning periods I agree with Julian Comrie that breakfast was at 7.40 am but I'm not quite sure about Assembly; if it was at 8.25 am and lessons started at 8.35 am that would have left little time for boys to get to their classrooms, especially at the labs and "The House" (as was). More likely Assembly was at 8.20 am? I recently met Roger Kendal (OR 1942-50) in Reading on his 78th birthday and we discussed the times of Assembly. He agreed that 8.20 am was the most probable time.

In Geoff Bye's interesting article I never knew that TT Walters' name was Thorne: he was always known as 'Willie'. About the only thing I can remember about him is an article he wrote for 'Summit' magazine about a holiday visit to a mine in (I think) Coalpit Heath. It began with two expressions that were then new to me: 'by dint of' and 'some string pulling'.

Just as a matter of interest, I was intrigued by two words on page 38 of the last newsletter. I had never heard of an 'airband' but now have some idea of what it is. And in the piece about David Marshall 'aerodrome' was a new one on me.

From **Gordon (Rudy) Hale** (OR 1939-46) writing from Germany:

I recently purchased a copy of Douglas Payne's wartime memories of Rendcomb and thought that I had found a number of discrepancies, on pages 27-32, which did not agree with my own memories. On checking page 27 again I realised that the memoirs, to the end of the chapter on page 32, were not Douglas's but Rowley Morris's (1937-46) and suddenly everything became clear – all the references to OR's and the other names were correct. My apologies to Douglas.

But I do have one or two other points to raise regarding what I consider are discrepancies in Douglas's memoirs. The page numbers refer to Douglas's book.

P 46, para 1: Surely Miss Young was not the first lady teacher at Rendcomb – what about Miss Alway, Mrs Manifold, Mrs James, Miss Carnell and, very briefly, Miss Lightowler?

P 48 para 2: DWL-B did not own a 3-wheeler Morgan – it was a BSA with front-wheel drive, a 4-cylinder water-cooled engine manufactured in the mid 1930s. His Bentley was commandeered at the beginning of WW2 and used for some kind of research. At the end of the war he located it again and restored it, piecemeal, to its former pristine condition. I remember that he laid out the refurbished parts, a few at a time in the entrance hall before they were finally replaced on the chassis/bodywork. After the BSA, DWL-B bought a Wolseley Hornet sports car – a conventional 4-wheeled vehicle.

P 40 para 1: Rev Inge – his niece Laura played the organ (badly) and the two were nicknamed Popping, revving and missing!! I was never asked to go to the rectory for tea. Incidentally, many years later I met the wife of the Army\Command Librarian in Germany who was also the niece of Rev Inge and knew Rendcomb. I believe that Rev Inge was a relation of the famous/infamous "Gloomy" Dean of St. Pauls.

P45: I vividly recall Mr Winter (Headmaster's secretary) and Freddy Fisher being taken away one morning to be interned. I also remember the Junkers 88 flying very close to the college at rooftop height and below. At the time I was in the dormitory above the library, with several other boys, and had an excellent view of the aircraft's flight from over the wilderness and across the Churn valley. I did not see, or hear, any shooting as it passed but had a clear view of the rear-facing gunner in his turret.

One of my memories of RND Wilson was that he owned a light grey Armstrong Siddeley car with a dickie-seat at the back and, of course, the Sphinx mascot above the radiator at the front. I still have a pencil portrait of myself drawn by HU Molyneaux – I think I must have been 15 years old at the time.

JC James was rumoured to have been going to play cricket for Glamorgan but had foolishly looked at an eclipse of the sun, without eye protection, and so was unable to pursue his ambition to play first class cricket. I spent hours at the nets being coached by him but he never succeeded in stopping me from bowling medium – fast round-arm (off the wrong leg) – with considerable success, I might add. I was able to bowl late out-swingers to right-handed batsmen which cut back sharply off the seam from the off. I remember one practice match "on top" when I clean-bowled Brian Plenderleith and his cousin, Donald Grant, with the first two balls of the first over and Derrick Hill with the fourth. Each had his off-stump removed. JCJ was umpiring.

I was a founder-member of the ATC flight under Flt-Lt AGG Richards (Dickers) and still have my membership card signed by him. I was able to march with the same leg and same-side arm forwards (and backwards - try it some time and see how hard it is!!). In my last term I was promoted to Corporal (the first in the flight). I remember I was very good at aircraft recognition and the Morse code. My first flight was in an Avro Anson from South Cerney to Mountbatten (Plymouth) – a seaplane base in WW2. We turned round straightaway and did not land at Mountbatten (no runway!!). My second flight was in the summer holidays from Staverton Airport in a de Havilland Rapide. I seem to remember flying over the Cerne Abbas Giant north of Dorchester (Dorset).

P 84 para 3. I had a crush on Dorothy Cooper and shortly after I left Rendcomb I once cycled from Maisemore to Cheltenham and took her to the cinema. I haven't seen her since! Douglas, I seem to remember, was interested in Joyce Moffat, another of the village girls. Was she the one from whom he stole a kiss? (see last paragraph on page 95).

P 77 last para & p 78 Reference the motorcycle. I was walking along the Cirencester road in the direction of

North Cerney, near the Cirencester lodge gate when an American/Canadian convoy was passing. For some reason everything stopped, including a dispatch-rider whose motorcycle was apparently overheating. To "cool" the engine he threw a Dixie-full of what turned out to be petrol over it and the whole machine was suddenly engulfed in flames and burnt out. Was that the same machine, which Douglas wrote about? I have my doubts because of the location and I don't think the convoy I watched was of tanks.

I experienced the end of WW2 in a tent in the New Forest, with Ian Menzies. We had cycled there, I from Maisemore and Ian from Cheam and maybe I shall write an account of our adventure at some later date! Ian had brought a radio on which we listened to the BBC news about the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which caused the Japanese Government to surrender and end WW2.

I was very sorry to read in the OR newsletter 2009 of the deaths of four more of my contemporaries at Rendcomb, Frank Dutton, Trevor Morris, Ted Jones and Neil McGregor Wood. As I am now well over 81 years old I do not think my demise can be many years away!!

Regarding Douglas Payne's book, Gordon Hale writes that D W Lee-Browne did not own a Morgan 3-wheeler, but a front-wheel drive BSA. He says that his Bentley was commandeered at the beginning of WWII and used for research, but Martin Lee-Browne recalls that it was left on blocks in the shed near the Old Rectory. Gordon Hale remembers that, after the BSA, D W Lee-Browne bought a Wolseley Hornet sports car, which was a conventional four-wheeled vehicle.

Ed.

### **Old Rendcombian News**

#### **OR attempts the GOBI March!**

A note from **Nick Carmichael** (OR 1989-96)

Email: [nick.carmichael@projectmcp.com](mailto:nick.carmichael@projectmcp.com) Tel : +44 (0)7799 133 955

#### **The Challenge**

Dear ORs...

Together with a friend of mine (Dan Brandt, a school teacher) I am preparing to compete in a race known as the Gobi March. This is a 250km self-supported footrace across the Gobi desert in China that takes place over seven days in June this year. Essentially this means 6 marathons in almost as many days in searing heat (40-50 degrees Celsius) and across treacherous terrain, carrying all the kit we need to survive for the week including food. We are only provided with water, a place in a tent each night and (worryingly but thankfully too) medical assistance. It is similar to the Marathon des Sables but not as well known.

As part of our training we will be taking part in some interesting events, for example, the first marathon I will run (ever) will be as part of the Jurassic Coast Challenge in March, an event of two marathons in two days. I am also running the London Marathon and various other races over a range of distances. We plan to try and get something like a 50-miler in along the way too but we haven't entered that yet!

#### **Why**

Unfortunately, in July 2009 my sister-in-law (Camilla Milbank) had a riding accident and suffered a broken neck. She has been left severely paralysed with no movement below the chest but some movement of her arms (not hands though really). Quite unbelievably, Camilla's father Charles (my father-in-law) also suffered a broken neck in December 2009 having fallen down a flight of stairs on a ferry returning home to France after visiting Camilla in hospital. Believe it or not, both father and daughter have ended up in Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

We are running to try to raise funds in aid of the Friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal as well as a wonderful spinal charity, The Back-Up-Trust. I've seen first-hand the impacts of severe spinal injuries, both on those suffering the injuries and also the networks of families and friends around them. This is our way of doing just a little something to help the cause.

#### **How People Can Help**

We would like to try to help Camilla and Charles as directly as possible. However, the Friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal is not a formally registered charity so we want to also offer people the opportunity to donate to a registered charity too – that's where The Back-Up Trust comes in.

To donate, people can therefore visit the following sites:

[www.friendsofcamillamilbankappeal.com](http://www.friendsofcamillamilbankappeal.com) for FOCMA

[www.justgiving.com/Gobi2010](http://www.justgiving.com/Gobi2010) for TBUT

Of course, we would be massively grateful for any kind of donation, whether financial or not and if people want to support both causes and divide up what they give then of course that would also be great.

Our hope is that by pushing ourselves to the extreme we can maybe inspire people to dig into their pockets and give a little something for this most worthy of causes.

I wish to thank the OR society for their help in allowing me to reach out to the OR community and I wish the best to all OR's everywhere, whoever you are!

**Barney Hatcher** (1979-85) is still with RSA (Royal Sun Alliance as was) and has spent the last four or five years working with management consultants on various business transformation projects. He says it is very tiring keeping pace as they are much younger and more energetic than he is, but it keeps him on his toes!

**Martin Griffiths** (staff: 1982-2003) Martin wrote to Jane: I continue to combine my lecturing at the college with the freelance writing and photography to be found in Herefordshire Life and a variety of other magazines. One of the chicken recipes in the March issue was inspired by a dinner I once had with Tom Denny and had not forgotten. They can be found on the Herefordshire Life web site and sometimes on my 'Great British Life' blog. I still run various functions and am in contact with the Irigithathi primary school in Kenya.

**Tim Nicholas** (1969-76) has been awarded a commendation by the Air Officer Commanding 22 (Training) Group for his work as a qualified helicopter instructor at the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. He has been described as "the mainstay of flying standards and the lynchpin in the re-organisation of air traffic services instruction to all DHFS members".

**Sophia Stone** (née Michaelides) (1986-88) reports that she has moved to a village near Arundel in West Sussex with her husband Adam, and her 3 daughters, Emily (aged 9), Rebecca (aged 8) and Matilda (aged 18 months). Following her qualification as a doctor in 1995, she took up a post as a consultant in obstetrics in Chichester in September 2009.

**Chris Terrill** (staff: 1978-83) recently spent a year chasing tornadoes for a TV series called 'Nature's Fury', which was aired on ITV1 earlier this year. He operated entirely on his own as cameraman, crew and presenter. The series shows that he filmed events as frightening and diverse as a tornado in the USA, the monsoon in India and sandstorms in the Sahara. The results of his filming are fairly frightening, as he gets rather too close to mountainous waves and terrifying winds, but he says that he had the time of his life!

**Peter Binks** (1935-41) celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife, Brenda, at their home near Melbourne, Australia, in April 2009. A former production engineer, Peter moved to Australia with his wife and two children in 1963, having got the taste for traveling across Britain and Europe as a young man. He now has five grandchildren and considers himself fortunate to have had such an exciting life.

**Ed Hutchison** (1999-2004) graduated from Southampton University with a 2:1 in biomedical science in 2009 and has now started a 4 year MB ChB course at the School of Medicine at Warwick University. His sister **Rebecca** (2000-06) is in her second year of French at Birmingham University.

**David Tyler** (1965-70) has moved from GUS, where he was finance director, to become the next chairman of J Sainsbury. He replaces Sir Philip Hampton, who steps down to focus on his role as chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland. David read economics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, before joining Unilever, then County NatWest, then Christies and GUS, where he supervised its complex demerger from Experian, Argos and Burberry. He and his wife, Sharon, have a son and a daughter. He is described by Bob Wigley, chairman of Yell, as "very solid, very analytical...and a very nice bloke".

**Richard Dunwoody** (1975-81) took part in a walk of 1000 miles in 1000 hours in 2009, following his trek to the South Pole, which he achieved in 49 days after suffering temperatures as low as -43°C. On the 1000-mile walk, he planned to walk the same route of half a mile out and half a mile back, every hour for a thousand hours, suffering a huge loss of sleep in the process. The walk emulated the feat of Captain Robert Barclay, who made his remarkable walk in 1809. Richard's walk raised money for the Jockey Club, which helps people who have been involved in horse racing, and the Alzheimer's Society, as Richard's father is suffering from the disease. In excess of £100,000 was raised. Richard has most recently been seen as part of the BBC's commentary team for the Grand National.

**Jonathan Freeman** (1991-98) writes that he graduated from Cardiff University in September 09 with a doctorate in clinical psychology, and has started work as a clinical psychologist for the NHS in Swindon.

**Rupert Hooper** (2000-06) graduated from Southampton University with a 2:1 in economics in 2009 and has been awarded a place on a graduate training scheme with Lloyds TSB plc.

**Geoffrey Bye** (1948-52) wrote to Jane that on 2nd April 2009. He had an OR reunion in Connecticut with C D Whittle. He said that although he was at the College 1940-48 and David 1944-52, the 4 year overlap was enough to give them many shared memories and a lot of laughs! This was the first time in 38 years living in Connecticut that Geoff had been visited by an OR, despite the fact that they are midway between New York & Boston, both much-visited cities. David and his wife found Geoff via the Rendcomb web-site.



### Travel Bursary

**Sian Clift** (JOR 2001; OR 2002 –07)

In late July till mid August, thanks to the Old Rendcombian society, Mr Gerry and Alex Holden and many other staff at Rendcomb College, I was able to travel to Jinja, Uganda.

After deciding that I was going to undertake this trip, I soon contacted the Old Rendcombian society to see if I was eligible for a travel bursary. Thankfully the society was very kind and helped with a bursary of £500 for my trip. This went towards the necessary travel costs. To fund this trip, I also had a weekend job while at Cirencester College which helped me to fund other exciting ventures I wanted to undertake while out there. I was fortunate enough to travel with my friend Jess, and when we landed in Uganda we were greeted by Mark, the current headmaster of Lords Meade Vocational College. Soon after we were settled we met Alex Holden. Taking our first “Boda Boda” (moped taxi’s!) ride was scary and adjusting to the climate was interesting, but we soon became well adjusted. We stayed at the Busoga trust guesthouse where we met many other students undertaking similar projects to ours.

One of the first people we met was Godfrey Kiganga at the Busoga trust office in the centre of Jinja. Here we discussed how we would like to spend our time in Uganda and arranging a timetable of events. One of the first places Jess and I visited was the Sonrise baby home. This housed less than 10 orphans all younger than 2 years of age. I gave some teddies and gifts to each of the babies. I could also provide blow up globes for the children to play with.



Another place I worked at was Magwa primary school, the headmistress being Florence Kiganga. Here I taught geography and this was a very valuable experience as I was able to take control of a classroom of at least 50 children, giving me the real experience of a possible teaching occupation. I provided pencils, chalks and stickers for the school and students! Finally here Jess and I also taught physical education and rounders, which the children had never learnt before. Despite some children running straight to second base, they picked it up quickly, and I gave 2 rounders sets to the school, along with P.E equipment.

Despite working hard at Lords Meade School, there was time on the weekends for some fun! Being terrified yet extremely brave I attempted white water rafting with friends from the guesthouse. We also went on safari, which was an amazing experience!

I cannot thank all of the people mentioned, my parents and the Old Rendcombian society enough for giving me this opportunity. This experience has changed my life in that I have met so many different people; I have been immersed in a new culture and way of life and now know that one person’s actions, in a school, orphanage etc



can make the world of difference. I would definitely go there again!

**Jazz Barkes (2002-09):**

Never in my final year at school did I consider the possibility of returning to school the following year. Like many school leavers, I had big dreams and none of these included stepping foot inside an education establishment other than a university. But my plans changed, and I ended up working for the dark side – I became a member of staff!

I took up the position of gap student at Rockport School in Belfast, Northern Ireland in late August 2009. Rockport is an independent boarding school situated right on the coast of Craigavad, and caters for children aged 2-16, both boys and girls, with boarding from Monday to Friday. Here, I work in various areas, both in academic and non-academic subjects.

Most days I start in the Pre-Prep department with the 2-7 year olds as a classroom assistant. Inevitably, some of the children have their moments and at times can get irritating, but most of them are lovely and their little Irish accents are adorable! I help them learn to read and write and although at times it can be extremely hard work, it's pretty satisfying. Almost every afternoon is taken up by games for the Prep and Senior schools, who are the children from Year 4 to 5th Form. In the winter the boys do rugby, football or hockey and the girls will either do hockey, trampolining or netball, with the occasional torture of an unexpected cross country run! In the summer everyone does athletics and the boys will play cricket and the girls play rounders and tennis. I coach and organise matches for both boys' and girls' hockey and most of the time will join in the practice. As the Irish would say, the "craic" is good, basically meaning we all have a laugh!

On two of the four nights (there is no weekend boarding!!!) the children board I will be on duty. Unlike Rendcomb, there is no evening prep so I have all of the kids from 5.30 until they go to bed at 10.30. The boarding is also co-ed and all of the children of all ages are in the same house as there are not many children who stay. Most of them come from the nearby forces bases and there are even some foreigners from across the waters like me! In the evenings there are various clubs and activities and this is when I was able to set up a Lacrosse club for the boarding children and some of the day children. They all picked it up quite quickly but are not quite at the standard of the Rendcomb 1st XII just yet! We are heading on tour to Nottingham for netball and rugby in March and then next year they are following in Rendcomb's footsteps and heading to Barbados! Unfortunately I will have left by then, but they may need a guest coach!

The money kindly donated by the Old Rendcombian Society has enabled me to travel to and from Ireland, bringing sports equipment and much needed warm clothing, and allowing me to escape from school from time to time! I am also keen for leavers from this year to follow me to Ireland, as this link between Rockport and Rendcomb will hopefully become more established and grow stronger. Although returning to school can seem weird, and being on the teaching side is a bizarre change from being a student, it is great fun and I have met some lovely people. Again, this was all due to the money donated by the OR Society and I am truly very grateful.

Some of the Rockport Junior Choir at a concert with their prizes!



### **Carbs, Art and Nun Splitting.**

My Art History Abroad Experience by **Emily Slark** (2006-08)

20th April to 1st June 2009

In order to tell you everything that I experienced and saw in Italy, I would need to produce a hefty book. So as much as I would like to share every small detail of my trip, I shall just focus on my main stays in Rome, Florence and Venice.



#### **'The Eternal City'**

What I adored about Rome was the city's eclectic mix of the classical world and the bustling cosmopolitan. Its charm was instant, its art and architecture astonishing. There is no place like it. The tutors took us girls and one boy, James, who might as well have been a girl, round all the sites, including the Pantheon, the Colosseum, the Vatican, the Roman Forum, Bramante's Tempietto of San Pietro, the Villa Borghese and every church ever made by man! After one day, we slumped up the endless, twisting stairs that led to our hotel rooms and just crashed. Our feet covered in oozing blisters, our faces sunburnt, our clothes smelling of Rome. We were dead to the world. Then one by one, our room phones screeched at us, and one by one we fumbled to pick up the receiver and there was Tom the tutor, raring to go, telling us excitedly that we were to be leaving for supper and the Trevi Fountain in fifteen minutes! I can tell you that not one of us was in the least bit impressed. In fact the excitement on Tom and Luke's faces switched quickly from excitement to pure fear as we darted at them complaining, resembling a swarm of angry wasps. From that day on, we learnt that this was no holiday. We were up at seven thirty every morning, walking all day, dancing all night and it seemed, despite the fact that I was so sleep deprived that I could no longer communicate in any language known to man, that I dreaded leaving Italy. It honestly felt like home. I loved the people (apart from the Florentines - who were distinctly angry!), the food, the galleries, the museums, the music, the buildings, the views, the smells, my friends, the tutors, our little AHA sketchbooks and the doodles we drew in them, the sun, and even the CHURCHES!

#### **Florence**



We sat, bathed in glorious sunshine, in the luscious Baboli Gardens, at the back of the Pitti Palace, listening to extracts from E.M Forster's 'A Room with a View'.

*“So, Miss Honeychurch, you are travelling?  
 As a student of art?”  
 “Oh, dear me, no - oh, no!”  
 “Perhaps as a student of human nature”, interposed  
 Miss Lavish, “like myself?”  
 “Oh, no. I am here as a tourist.”  
 “Oh, indeed”, said Mr. Eager. “Are you indeed? If  
 you will not think me rude, we residents sometimes  
 pity you poor tourists not a little - handed about like  
 a parcel of goods from Venice to Florence, from Florence  
 to Rome, living herded together in pensions  
 or hotels, quite unconscious of anything that is outside  
 Baedeker, their one anxiety to get ‘done’ or  
 ‘through’ and go on somewhere else. The result is,  
 they mix up towns, rivers, palaces in one inextricable whirl.”*

For reasons I can't explain, I felt most at home in Florence. As soon as we arrived I went off exploring and got to know the streets and squares. Our time in Florence was planned and carried out with all the precision and formalities of a military operation. We marched to our destinations in a long line of pairs. Climbing to the top of the great Duomo and looking out over all of Florence, its warm terracotta domes and roofs, cool pastel walls, its jutting towers all lying nestled in the serene Tuscan hills, we stared up in awe at the frescos of Lippi, Masaccio, and Masolino in the Brancacci Chapel. We sat, cross-legged on the cool floors of the Uffizi, gazing up like expectant children at the countless masterpieces. However, my most distinct and potent memory was at the Duomo Museum, where we were led one by one to face Donatello's wooden sculpture of Mary Magdalene. One of the most beautiful and haunting sculptures I have ever seen. She stands before you, staring, hollow eyed, emaciated, and powerful. The raw emotion this almost sinister woman evokes in you is a strange mixture of compassion, fear, and repulsion. I have never seen anything like it. One by one, it left every single one of us chatty girls totally speechless. However, it is perhaps important to point out that not all our days were emotionally harrowing or awe inspiring. On our few and well deserved free days we just wandered aimlessly around the city with no real idea what we were doing or where we were going. Munching on huge delicious strawberries, which dribbled juice down our chins, we mostly lounged about in the Piazzas basking in the sunshine like reptiles, reading trashy novels or flitting through some great volume on renaissance art. We chattered about what we were excited about seeing next, about our next stop.



## Venice



By the time we had got to Venice the sun was getting scorching. Hot and thirsty, the taunting water of the canals lapped around us. By this point, most of us had brought lace parasols and hand fans to keep us cool, so we glided about Venice looking like characters out of an Edwardian novel.

Our first day saw us bobbing about on the Grand Canal in a vaporetti wondering what on earth was going on. The tutors hadn't told us what was going on. Eventually, after a lot of interrogation, they finally let slip that we were about to witness the 'Testa Della Sensa', the celebration of 'the marriage of Venice to the sea'. Here the Mayor of Venice, along with civic dignitaries and religious and military representatives leave Saint Mark's Square in a ceremonial boat and sail to the Port of San Nicolo where a gold ring is flung with all due ceremony into the waves. The whole of Venice goes out on the water to celebrate this tradition which has been going for centuries and we were lucky to have arrived on the day when it all happened, though we were all pretty convinced that the tutors had

totally forgotten it was happening, but it was certainly a memorable introduction to Venice. It seemed to me, that the most bizarre thing about Venice was the mysterious lack of Italian residents. We were convinced they were all in hiding, which no one could blame them for, with the vaporetto and squares being crammed full of English and American tourists. However, we AHA girls were whisked away from the other tourists, and by the evening we were sat, totally alone, as the interior of the Basilica of San Marco was lit up around us. The gold mosaics glittered and twinkled in the candles and lights. This summed up my time in Venice with AHA. Exclusive and private trips round all the sites and galleries.

Some of my most memorable moments:

The nunsplitting game! The main aim of this fantastic game was to split travelling packs of nuns, who seemed incredibly intent on walking everywhere in pairs or large groups. The most famous moments of this game would certainly be when George, a highly intelligent and utterly hyper girl from Essex decided she needed the loo and went about looking for one. It was at this moment, when the rest of our party, sat picnicing on sun dried tomatoes and pesto under the dappled shade of trees on the Palatine Hills, had the honour to watch this girl cause devastation as she ploughed through the largest pack of travelling nuns we AHA girls had ever seen!



Nellie about to pounce at the Vatican.

Waffles coated in melted chocolate in Florence.

The glorious ice cream in Venice.

Sitting on 'Jeremy the jetty' in Venice with Katie, reading and tanning.

The Cafe Florian's hot chocolate.

Drinks at Harry's Bar.

Waking up and seeing the pantheon outside my window first thing in the morning in Rome.

Being serenaded by an opera singer in the evening in Rome.

Going to the opera with George and Fi to see La Traviata and Tosca.

Shopping in Rome!

'Thank God for Jilly Cooper!' the endless swapping of all the 'Jillys' we brought with us.

The huge amounts of postcards everyone bought.

The never-ending picnics!

Eating pizza on the rocks in the Bay of Naples.

Running to the top of Vesuvius and passing out when we reached the top.

Having to open and dig through the contents of my suitcase at the airport to find George a piece of volcanic rock from Vesuvius because George left hers on the coach. The Vaporetti!

The one boy!

The wheel falling off my suitcase.

Over all, the trip was a once in a lifetime experience that I shall look on fondly for the rest of my life. I came away from Italy as a 'student of art history' and a changed person. I can now say that a subject that I had some inclination for before I went to Italy is now a great passion of mine. I am at present, studying the history of art at the University of Nottingham and loving every second of my course!

**Alex Tennant-Bell** (2002-09) writes:

The world, apparently, is getting smaller so I thought I would take my chance to leave behind my quiet Cotswold life and head out there and get a taste of it, see what was out there. I packed my bag and signed up for a volunteer programme in Ecuador, South America, quite possibly the most diverse and varied country in the world. Home of the Panama hat, 30 active volcanoes (for a country the size of the state of Colorado!) and

138,420 km. of the mighty Amazon rainforest. This was to be my home for the three months whilst I carried out volunteer work; aiding, constructing, teaching and reforesting my way through Ecuador's poorest and most needy regions.

I arrived in the capital city, Quito. A city that was (making use of the limited Spanish I picked up!) completely 'loco'! Taxis and street vendors and people and reggaeton music and buskers and smells of cooking guinea pig, banana fritters, exhaust fumes all come together into some kind of surreal, broiling mass and all to the gorgeous backdrop of the Andes mountains, I felt immediately at home. I spent the next two weeks in Quito, attempting to learn Spanish (if you think double chemistry is hard work try 4 hours of one-on-one Spanish with a non-English speaker!). After my fortnight in the city I took the 12 hour bus ride to the coast where I stayed in an eco-tourism lodge, something that is becoming increasingly more popular throughout the world.

We were tasked with helping out with the day-to-day maintenance and running of the resort, and the adjoining sustainable farm. Harvesting fruits, managing gardens, painting buildings and even building the odd toilet block! All too soon I packed up and headed back to Quito, but only for a short while. Before long I took the 5 hour bus ride through the stunning scenery of the Andes and dropped down into the Amazon basin and all the marvels that went with it.

I spent the next month in a similar Eco-Lodge, reforesting their land, creating banana plantations and getting involved in the local community wherever possible, making many a friend with the ever-so-friendly locals. I also took the time out to go rafting, canyoning and caving .....it's not all hard work! The four weeks I spent in the jungle was something I will never forget, the Amazon is truly something that needs to be experienced to be believed.

And so back to Quito for me, this time for the final and most rewarding two weeks. I worked at a local Red Cross school in a community close to Quito. My team and I restored their vital vegetable garden and their swing set after a landslide destroyed half of their school site. Trying to build and work with the limited resources we could get our hands on was so very rewarding and gave a taste of the resources these people have available to live off. Working in the school was incredibly eye-opening and the children were so grateful and so much fun and that just made it worthwhile. The plane journey, the months of saving, the hours of convincing my mum, the letters to the OR society, missing home and everything else that I had to endure and work through to get out there.

It was all worth it, and my thanks and gratitude go out to the Old Rendcombian Society for their vital donation to my trip. Without them I and so many other Rendcombian leavers wouldn't have been able to go out and do some real good in the lives of others and learn so much in the process.

However, the most important thing I learned was, despite what people say, the world is not at all getting smaller, but is in fact quite as large, exciting and inspiring as it ever has been. So get out there and enjoy it!

### College News



18th June 1940 - On Top

Stanley Trayhurn (1935-42), Steve Curry (1935-43), Dick Margetts (1935-43), Peter Binks (1935-41),  
Mrs Lucy Binks

It was Peter Binks's birthday and they were wearing Sunday best and look, predominantly no ties!!

### **Restoration Of The Lake**

Following a survey of the Rendcomb Estate by **Jenny Phelps** (née Watson, 1979-81), working for the charity FWAG, plans are afoot to restore the lake and re-introduce wildlife. The silt and vegetation is to be cleared and several rare species of bat and birds of prey are to be encouraged to breed further in the wooded areas.

In 1880, the ornamental lake included a waterfall, a bridge and a boathouse and was originally used for fishing but became a boating lake. It fell into disrepair when the course of the Churn was partly diverted and the water supply was reduced to a trickle. The restored lake would bring obvious educational advantages, but there would also be the possibility of using a small hydro-electric turbine to generate power from the water.

There are also plans to regulate grazing more carefully to enhance the grassland and to restore the drive (between the Cheltenham and Cirencester lodges) to its former glory. There would be a sum of over £300,000 available to finance this work over the 10 year period that the project would run. Clearly, the project could make a huge difference to the estate and to all the children at Rendcomb. We will keep readers informed of further developments.

### **Lt. Col. the Hon Jeremy Grey** (Bursar 1994-2009)

Jeremy Grey retired as bursar in 2009, having arrived in 1994. During his tenure, the College changed considerably, with the new Astroturf pitches being laid in 1997 (supported by the Martin Wills Bequest) and the inception of the Junior School in 1999. Jeremy Grey also oversaw the relocation of the French and English departments to the Stable Block, various other classroom changes which further improved efficiency, and new ICT provision across the College. He instigated the refurbishment and redecoration of the main college building, particularly the ground floor. The impressive appearance of the halls and the main ground floor rooms is due to his interest and enthusiasm, which included the replacement of the old curtains by new blinds in the dining-room. It is hardly surprising and a tribute to him that it has now become a sought after venue for weddings. He also worked on health and safety details and assisted as churchwarden in St Peter's. He has moved to France with his wife, Suzie. We wish them well.



### **Mrs Pat Poole** (staff 1971-2010)

Yes you read this right three months short of 39 years working in the kitchens at the College. "Pat" as many of you will know her only came here to help out for a six-week period and stayed for two thousand and fourteen weeks longer than her first intentions.

I know that you will have all at some time sampled her delightful desserts: the yummy flapjack, the delicious chocolate crunch and pink sauce, the sponges and custard and latterly the chocolate brownie, all of which she has become renowned for. The loss to the academic staff of Pat's delightful cakes in the afternoon will be a serious blow to common room morale but may assist some to not be so readily tempted.

Mrs Poole has seen changes a plenty during her time at Rendcomb, from the move from family service in the dining room to the introduction of a servery, where under contract catering, students were limited to what they may have, "It's baked beans, fried bread and a slice of bacon and only three choices" to having what they would like and as much as they like - a choice of five cereals not one, fruit at every meal and a totally different ethos to 1971. There have been times when Pat has not found the changes easy and she has been heard to say on many occasions: "What time are the boys coming in for match teas?". Pat, don't forget the girls with their strange modern games like lacrosse!! How things have changed.

Pat has seen headmasters come and go, and many a student pass through. Some like Alex Brealy and Chris Wood have come back following their transformation from student to teacher. Pat is very discreet as to what these two Rendcomb stalwarts got up to in their younger days and how ever hard she is pressed nothing is divulged. Could it be she is saving all for a book in the future? That may make some of you take a deep intake of breath!!!

Some of you will have been lucky enough to have had Pat make a celebration or a wedding cake for you. So you will know the exceptionally high standard that these have been, with the attention to detail and care that has gone into them, real showstoppers and worthy of any high class professional cake shop. Except that Pat is

self taught; a lesson to us all on what can be achieved with dedication and determination.

There have been times when the weather has played a dastardly trick and the boarders were stuck within the campus, and alas the day students were unable to make it to Rendcomb, but Pat has always ensured that “the boys” have been fed, be it by her spending a few nights in the medical centre or walking from home to work, up and down the Woodmancote hill, trudging through the snow.

I was asked to sum up Mrs Pat Poole. She is dedicated, determined, caring, professional, a very special person, a great cook and most of all a super, super, person. Pat we will miss you and we all wish you a fabulous retirement.

Mark Naylor (Director of Commercial Operations)

Other staff changes include the arrival of Alice Berry to teach chemistry, Austen O’Hanlan to become head of art and Angela Ferreira to become house parent at Lawn House. Maria Lizana-Weekes has also joined the staff to teach Spanish.

**Mrs Joy Hardy** (staff 1972-2010)

Joy has decided it is time to retire and spend some time with her husband Barry, who has worked at Rendcomb on and off in the works team and catering departments over the last 20 years. Joy was recruited to work in Park House shortly after it was opened and the introduction of the young ladies to Rendcomb. She has told me that they were very well behaved in what had been a male dominated society. I am sure some of you will be pleased to hear that the secrets of what you got up to sound like they are safe in Joy’s hands.

Joy went on to work in the Main Building, Old Rectory, Art Block and Stable Block in the days when there was staff accommodation and not classrooms on the top floor, and has for the last 14 years been the backbone of the cleaning team in Godman House, or, as she calls it, ‘The Pink Palace’. She is very well travelled around the Rendcomb campus but has not ventured into the two newer boarding houses of Stable and Lawn so a complete set will not be achieved. The domestic staff back in the days gone by would also be required to do one day a week in the kitchen so Joy has proved herself as being happy to turn her hand to help out.

Joy by name and Joy by nature, she has always been a shining light, nothing has been too much trouble when Joy has arrived on Monday morning following a weekend of fun and games in Godman House, where the young ladies have had a sleepover and party. Nothing has fazed her and she has always got stuck in and sorted it out, for which we will be eternally grateful.

Joy, you have been a great asset to Rendcomb and a special person who has cared about the results you have achieved in your job and for the students wherever you have worked within the College and it is sad to say goodbye following such a long and distinguished time at Rendcomb, but we all wish you and Barry and long and happy retirement.

Mark Naylor

**Sir Michael Angus**, chairman of the governors from 1997-2009, died in March.

Sir Michael was born in Kent in 1930 and spent his childhood in Rhodesia before moving with his family to Gloucestershire during the war. He was a pupil at Marling School in Stroud before going on to Bristol University where he read mathematics. While there he was chairman of the Conservative Association. Following three years in the RAF he joined Unilever as a management trainee in 1954. Sir Michael joined the boards both in Britain and Holland in 1970 and became chairman of the British side of the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate in 1986, after postings in New York and Paris. He remained chairman until 1992 when he became president of the CBI and the chairman of Whitbread. He was also a director of EMI and British Airways and deputy Chairman of National Westminster Bank. In 1994 he became chairman of Boots the chemist.

Other organisations to which he gave his time were the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester and Ashbridge Management College. For both of which he was chairman of the governors. He was also a governor of the London School of Economics, director of Ditchley College and a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Gloucestershire.

Sir Michael married Isabel Elliott in 1952 and between them and their daughter Barbara have created a beautiful garden at Cerney House, North Cerney which is regularly open to the public and attracts visitors from around the country to view the snowdrops.

A more detailed account of his career can be found in his obituary published by the Daily Telegraph at [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/finance-obituaries/7494364/Sir-Michael-Angus.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/finance-obituaries/7494364/Sir-Michael-Angus.html)



### Cricket – 28th June 2009

**Pat Boydell** writes:

For the first time ever we changed the format for the OR's cricket and pitched an OR side against a Rendcomb Select XI. This worked extremely well and created a bit more of a competitive dynamic than in previous years. The Rendcomb team was comprised of the best pupils and staff while the ORs, as ever, fielded a side of what should have been unparalleled skill. It came then as a surprise that the ORs lost. This is not something that we are accustomed to and will make for stronger effort in 2010. The exact score escapes me (and the school score book I'm sure is still in the score box) but the ORs batted first and reached a score of over 200 which led to an early and, in hindsight, over confident declaration by the OR's captain (no names mentioned)!

The Rendcomb side then batted with maturity and confidence to beat this total with a few overs to spare. It was a gloriously sunny day with a strong turn out of spectators and everyone seemed to enjoy what seemed to be the best cricket re-union for years.

Special thanks must go to Mike Slark for organising the opposition and helping make the day what it was. I hope that we can tempt any undecided ORs to come back and join us in 2010!



**Rugby Reunion - Saturday 5th December 2009**



Louis Greenaway, (2002-09), Harry Homan-Green (2000-07), Will Jefferson (2002-07), Richard Collins (2001-08), Toby Harris (2005-07), Karl Collett - friend of Henry Evans, Harley Phelps (2002-09), Rhys Thomas, (2002-09), Tommy Lait (1996-2003), James Groombridge (2002-04), Pat Boydell (1988-95), Adam Phelps (1980-82)



James Spackman (1997-2002), Freddie Lait (1994-2001), Adam Padmore (1996-2001), Chris Thomas (1998-2002), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), Andrew Donovan (1992-97), Nick Evans (1997-2004), Tim Bates (1996-2003) Mark Richardson (2002-07), Henry Evans (2002-07), Ian Thompson, (1988-95), Stephen Jones (1988-95), Chris Barefoot (2002-04)

Top pitch has never looked more magnificent than it did on the 5th December 2009 ahead of the OR's rugby match. A strong group of 24 energetic and lively looking rugby players were present for what promised to be a nail biter. Commitment was evident as Henry Evans and his group of cohorts demonstrated by turning up despite having had a great night celebrating Henry's birthday the night before.



The game got underway in emotional style as ex-first XV captain Pat Boydell kicked off to Ian Thompson, his teammate of 7 years during their school days, on the day that Ian was getting married. The pair rolled back the years as Boydell launched a Wilkinson-esque drop kick high into the air, claimed emphatically by Thompson who ran through 12 would be tacklers before scoring under the posts with Boydell on hand to add the extras. The pair then made a sharp exit with Thompson making his wedding service on time. With them gone the game started in earnest with both teams determined to play both a physical and an expansive style of rugby. One team was representing Cheltenham as their kit was kindly on loan from one of the local rugby clubs. The other was a barbarian style team with a mixture of shirts on display. With Thompson representing Cheltenham they already had an early lead. However the OR Barbarians were back in the game with an early try. Over the next 10 minutes or so there was a try for each side. Due to the high tempo pace the game started at there was a slight dip in form just before half term. However with the second half came a renewed sense of desire from both sides. With the Barbarians taking an early score they then had the lead. There were some excellent individual performances with some exciting breaks and

some physical defense. One such break led to the Cheltenham side regaining the lead.

The clock ticked on and it looked as though the barbarians had left it too late to win it. However the game wasn't over and with one minute left on the clock they put together a move that started deep in their own half with the ball being passed through several pairs of hands before a ruck infringement from Cheltenham led to an attacking scrum for the Ba-Bas 10 meters from the opposition's try line. The referee Rich Witchell indicated that there was time for the scrum before the final whistle. A back row move was vehemently defended by Cheltenham and the Ba-Ba forwards put together a few tight phases before their ever youthful looking scrum half James Groombridge spotted a gap in the defence that he could swipe through and break Cheltenham hearts by scoring the winning try, leaving the score line 20-17 in favour of the exciting Barbarians.

A massive thank you must go to every single one of the players for turning up and putting in so much effort and making it an absolutely fantastic game of rugby.

Tommy Lait (1996-2003)

### **Ladies Hockey - 5th December 2009**



**Jess Weston** writes:

On the 5th of December 2009 the OR ladies played hockey against the college's 1st XI girls. Unfortunately the ORs could not quite make up a team so many thanks to the 3rd years who stepped up to help us! A quick warm up consisting of 20 seconds of stretching, trying to locate some sticks to play with and a half lap around the pitch left the ORs feeling rather exhausted. A combination of a slight lack of fitness and some "apparent" new rules added to the game (like being able to pass yourself the ball from sideline hits) meant that the ORs had a slow start to the game. The college side quickly showed their strength by putting a few easy goals past the ORs. However, the ORs soon picked up their game, with the duo of Sarah Colson and Harri Kingsford making some excellent runs up the left. Heather Roper fitted straight back into her sweeper role pulling some massive 16-yard hits out of the bag. Half time ended with the college side leading by 6-0. For the second half the college side kindly agreed to swap some players (the ORs were saddened to hear that this did not mean swapping players to the ORs side but just swapping their own defenders and attackers). The second half started strongly with Aimee Schofield making some great tackles (even though most of them were coincidentally directed at her sister). Rachel Watson also made some speedy runs and had some great shots on goal. Finally a great cross from Rachel Watson and some strategic goal hanging from myself led to the ORs scoring a well-deserved goal. The match ended a respectful 6(ish)-1 to the college side. Many thanks must go to Mr Stutchbury for umpiring, all those that came to support, the 1st XI for a deserved victory and lastly to the valiant ORs who dusted off their sticks and trainers for a great match. Hopefully next year we will be able to field a full side to really give the college team a run for their money (please contact me on [jess\\_weston@hotmail.com](mailto:jess_weston@hotmail.com) if you would be interested in playing next year).

OR team:  
Heather Roper  
Sarah Colson  
Harri Kingsford  
Aimee Schofield  
Rachel Watson  
Jess Weston  
(& some kind 3rd years!)



### Lacrosse - 20th March 2010

**Jess Weston** writes:

On the 20th March an OR ladies lacrosse match was played after some very last minute organisation. Due to the short notice, the OR team had to be made up by some kind 5th and 6th formers. A short game was played, in perhaps the muddiest area of Rendcomb, but it was much enjoyed by all. The college team deservedly won the game but many thanks to Sian Clift, Iva Carvalhosa and Abby Whittles for making the effort. A special thank you must go to Ian Forster's girlfriend, Bella, who stepped in at the last minute to play after revealing that she had a full lacrosse kit in the car. She turned out to be rather good at lacrosse so will be expected to turn up next year as an honorary OR. Next year the OR lacrosse match will be officially put in the calendar so that we can try and organise a proper match. Please get in touch with me if you would like to play.



Hockey - 20th March 2010



1st XI ORs



2nd XI ORs

Report to follow in next year’s newsletter

### Destination of 2009 6A Leavers

Jak Allen	Gap Year
Richard Ashton	Gap Year
Jasmine Barkes	Teaching in Ireland
Sinead Brennan	History, Southampton University, 2010
Steven Brown	Gap Year
Iva Carvalhosa	Mathematics, Bristol University
Charles Daly	Gap Year
April Edwards	Gap Year, RAF
Max Ellis	Gap Year
Rosie Freeth	Royal Agricultural College
Christina Gasteiger	English Literature, Southampton University
Louis Greenaway	Construction Management, Exeter University
Ivan Hong	Not known
Sophie Humphries	English with Drama, UWIC
Kate Ke	Management, University of St Andrews
Harley Phelps	Gap Year, Royal Agricultural College 2010
Alex Tennant-Bell	Gap Year
Rhys Thomas	Art Foundation Course, UWIC
Hannah Timmins	Zoology, Royal Holloway College
Fiona Trumper	Art Foundation course, Stroud College, UWIC 2010
Wilde Wang	Not known
Rachel Watson	Geography, Exeter University
Helena Zhang	Not known

### The Friends Of Rendcomb College

Update from Colin Burden

Chairman:	Richard Wills, Middle End Farm, Eastington, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 3PL Telephone: 01451 860421
Executive Trustee:	Colin Burden, 21 The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2ER Telephone: 01285 655240
Aim:	The Friends of Rendcomb provides scholarships or bursaries for boys and girls from Gloucestershire Primary Schools who would benefit from a Rendcomb education. The need may arise from parental illness or family breakdown.

Nineteen Old Rendcombians are currently making regular contributions to The Friends in the form of covenants. This brings in about £2,500 annually. Recently we received one generous bequest and one generous donation. So far we have given eight scholars an excellent start to their education. During the current academic year we are supporting one new scholar in his last year in the sixth form. If we had not done this he would have been unable to complete his studies at the college and therefore not complete his 'A' levels. As we will only have £71,000 in our scholarship fund at the end of the academic year we will only be able to fund a scholar on a short-term basis.

In order to widen our support base, we will soon be writing to over a hundred Old Rendcombians who entered the college between 1940 and the mid 1970s on some form of scholarship (e.g. Gloucestershire Foundation) asking them to consider supporting The Friends. The Friends believe that raising funds to provide a scholarship for those who would not ordinarily have had the opportunity of attending Rendcomb is the essence of Rendcomb and in line with Noel Will's wishes.

Raising funds for this objective is a never-ending quest. The more Old Rendcombians who contribute will enable us to support more scholars who would benefit from an excellent Rendcombian education.

Please make this a very special year for The Friends by completing the necessary paperwork at the end of the newsletter. You can make a difference to a deserving boy or girl in a local primary school. All sums, however small, I can assure you will be put to very good use.

Present Trustees:

Richard Wills - Chairman, Governor Rendcomb College	Appointed 2004
Colin Burden - Executive Trustee, ex staff (1963-1997), former parent	2005
Jane Gunner - (née Watson) OR (1975-77), former parent, Hon. Sec. OR Society	1994
Dr. Madge Lyman - Governor Rendcomb College, former parent	2006
Gerry Holden - Headmaster, Ex Officio	1999
Keith Winmill - OR (1972-79)	2009
Mark Naylor - Commercial Operations Manager	2009
Dr. Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan - OR (1974-76), former parent	2009
Jessica Weston - OR (1998-2005)	2010

Registered Charity No: 290373

