

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



MAY 2012

38th ISSUE

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Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 3rd July 2011 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 E-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer:	Chris Wood (1965-71; staff: 1976-2009) E-mail: 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) Claire Germaine (1990-93)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG Tel: (01296) 582741 E-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting

Held on 3rd July 2011 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College

Present: Jane Gunner (1975-77), Colin Burden (staff: 1966-97), David Paine (1952-57), David Williams (1966-70), Peter Cockell (1943-52), Mark Gunner (2001-08), Luke Gunner (1998-05), Jess Weston (1998-05), Alice Hughes (1998-05), Robert Goodsell (1962-68), Bill White (staff: 1961-97), Paul Smith (1968-74), Julian Comrie (1946-54), Brian Smith (1965-72), Chris Wood (1965-71, staff 1976-09), Alex Brealy (1982-87, staff 1994-), Neil Lumby (1968-73), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Gerry Holden (headmaster: 1999-2011), Colin Hitchcock (1971-78), Phil Griffiths (1940-43), Frank Ferguson (1953-60), P.Vyvyan Rayner (1959-64), Mike Van Den Driessche (1955-60).

1. Apologies: Gerard Benson (1944-50), Chris Brisley (1941-50), Pat Boydell (1988-95), Tommy Lait (1996-03), Dominic Sharman (1993-99), Steve Jones (1988-95), Claire Germaine (1990-93)
The Chairman, Neil Lumby, welcomed everyone to a very well attended meeting.

2. The minutes of the 77th AGM held on 27th June 2010 were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising out of the minutes

Colin Burden thanked the OR Society for its support of the Friends of Rendcomb. He reported that the trust has an annual income of about £4,500.00. The recent raffle raised £2071.00 after costs with most of the prizes donated by ORs. The Friends of Rendcomb are currently helping to support a girl in her last year of GCSEs. He also went on to say that the FOR had been donated a Jan Kip print of an engraving from Sir Robert Atkyn's Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire, which will be on sale throughout the day by silent auction. The trust's funds had been moved from Cazenoves to the Stroud and Swindon Building Society.

4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer, Chris Wood, thanked the honorary auditor David Williams for auditing this year's accounts. He drew the meeting's attention to the fact that while funds were still healthy, annual costs were outstripping income. Subscription to the society was levied on pupils' termly bills and currently stood at £5.50/term. He explained that any increase agreed by the meeting could not be actioned until September 2012 as parents had to be given enough notice. Parents are able to opt out although very few do. However, those under NATO's auspices do not pay. He said the introduction of the termly method had saved the Society's finances. This was endorsed by Mike Van Den Driessche. Chris also drew the meeting's attention to the variation in the amount of travel bursary annual outlay. This was because until this year, the Society had no control over when a pupil, once offered one, accepted the bursary. However, the committee had now included the stipulation that the

pupil had to accept the award by the end of May of the year it was granted. With regard to the newsletter, while a much cheaper printers had been used this year, they had unfortunately used a heavier weight of paper which meant that it crossed the 100gm postage barrier resulting in an additional £450.00 which ate up any saving. There had also been the special mail drop as a result of the death of John Holt. It was suggested that more use of e-mail could be made. Jane explained that Colin Hitchcock made the newsletter available on the OR website so there was no need to e-mail it out. There is also an e-mail address list of members on the website. The Society's main database does record e-mail addresses where supplied and in an emergency people can be reached but generally members liked their newsletter in booklet form and e-mail addresses tend to be changed more regularly than residential addresses. Chris Wood also reported that the website was now cheaper as the Society had changed host. He reported that money had been ring fenced for the photographic record of Rendcomb College that he and Bill are working on and thanked the headmaster for arranging for that money to be available. The overall situation is that the deficit when averaged out of the last two years is £1,100.00. He therefore suggested that the subscription should be put up from £5.50 to £6.00/term. This was proposed by Alice Hughes, seconded by Alex Brealy and agreed unanimously.

It was proposed by Richard Tudor, seconded by Julian Comrie and agreed unanimously that the accounts should be adopted.

5. Election of Officers

President: Bill White was proposed by Brian Smith, seconded by David Williams and agreed unanimously. Chairman: Neil Lumby was proposed by Jess Weston, seconded by Phil Griffiths and agreed unanimously. Honorary Secretary: Jane Gunner was proposed by Alice Hughes, seconded by Richard Tudor and agreed unanimously.

Bill White thanked Neil for all he had done as chairman and the energy and enthusiasm he continued to give to the Society.

Neil Lumby thanked all the committee for their continued efforts especially the younger members for organising the sports events.

6. Nominations for committee members

Committee member with special responsibility for music: Claire Germaine was proposed by Jane Gunner, seconded by Neil Lumby and agreed unanimously.

7. Travel Bursary

In the light of the financial situation it was proposed by Richard Tudor, seconded by Colin Burden and agreed unanimously that the travel bursary should remain at £1000.00. Gerry Holden expressed his thanks to the Society saying how beneficial the travel bursary was to pupils and how much it was appreciated by the college.

8. Any other business

Neil Lumby thanked Colin Hitchcock for all his work in maintaining the website.

Alex Brealy and then the chairman thanked Gerry for all the support and tremendous welcome he always gave to ORs and wished him and Liese all the very best in their next post at Dover College.

Jane Gunner reported that for the second time, the Head Girl is to be a daughter of two ORs. She also advised the meeting that there was about to be an unveiling of a plaque in memory of Vernon Douglas Payne (OR 1925-31) in the library arranged by the Battle of Britain Historical Society and that OR's were welcome to join the proceedings.

9. The chairman thanked the college for its hospitality. Meeting closed at 12.44 pm.

79th Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 79th annual general meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 1st July 2012 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p.m.

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 78th A.G.M. held on 3rd July 2011
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Nominations for committee members
All proposed and seconded nominations to reach the secretary by 20th June 2012
6. Travel Bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures

Sunday 1st July 2012 timetable:

10.30 a.m. Coffee in Clock Hall

11.15 a.m. Cricket match

12 noon Pay Bar

12.15 p.m. AGM in Room E1

1.00 p.m. Hot Lunch including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors.
Main course to be collected from Servery for lunch in Reading Room.
No charge: any donations to O.R. Society gratefully received.
Staff retirement presentations.

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: Sunday 9th December 2012

Hockey: Saturday 23rd March 2013 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 30th June 2013 (provisional)

All provisional dates and those not listed here will be shown on www.rendcombian.org.uk as soon as they are agreed.

Old Rendcombian Reunion - Tag Rugby Tournament

Sunday 9th December 2012 - 10.30am.

It has been decided that this year we should try something new for the OR's rugby day. The past few years have seen a steady decline in those ORs willing to play fifteen-a-side full contact rugby so, in order to keep this reunion day running, we are going to trial a move over to tag (flag) rugby. This will be played in teams of seven and is a variant of touch rugby but easier to referee as, instead of relying on touching the opponent, players have to grab and remove coloured Velcro tags that are attached to the opponent's waist. Crucially, this is non-contact.

We are hopeful that the college will be raising two or three sides comprising pupils and staff and we aim to try to raise at least two OR teams. We may even invite external teams to participate if there is enough interest. We will run this on the Sunday morning instead of the usual Saturday afternoon slot which will allow pupils to participate. This is vital for the continued health of OR reunions.

If you would like to enter a team made up of your year group (or any other combination) then please let us know. We will start at 10.30am with the aim of finishing by about 1pm, followed by lunch.

We are told that the 1995 leavers are already laying claim to the trophy... does anyone else dare to challenge? It is also hoped that ORs will show support for the OR Advent carol service on the Sunday evening and the

College 1st team in their final match of the season against The King's School, Gloucester on the Saturday afternoon. This year the fixture is at King's. It would be good if ORs tried to build this in to their weekend if they are staying in the area.

We hope to see many of you there on Sunday this year. Many thanks, the OR Society committee.

Sports Contacts

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

College: Alex Brealy 01285 832314 (W) and 01285 832363 (H) brealya@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk

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

Cricket: Pat Boydell patrickb@tindirect.com

Advent Carol Service 2012 - Sunday, 9th December

Due to the resounding success of the OR advent carol service which was held in 2010, the decision has been made to repeat the event. As before, it promises to be an afternoon of reminiscing, laughter and the opportunity for ORs to get together for a good sing. The format will be exactly as it was, with the rehearsal in the afternoon and the service in the evening. David White will be conducting. To sign up or for further details, please contact Claire Germaine as soon as possible at cgermaine01@btinternet.com

The Newsletter

We start with a big thank you to Amanda Brealy for all her help in providing photos. We must also acknowledge the Wilts and Glos. Standard as source of many interesting articles. Moreover, we would like to thank Bill White and Chris Wood for all the hours they spent compiling the Photographic History of the College (see page 15 for more details).

A new feature in this year's newsletter is the feature on 'ORs in Print', which gives us the chance to promote any OR who has had work published. We ask ORs to get in touch if they would like their material included in the future.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming everybody to the summer reunion and would like to hear from anyone who wishes to organise a reunion of their year next summer.

Richard Tudor

OR Reunion - 3rd July 2011

2011's summer reunion was the biggest for many years with the kitchen serving over one hundred and sixty meals. There were reunion groups from the class of 60, and those who had left 40, 35 and 30 years ago. Presentations were made to Gerry and Liese Holden, who were leaving the college to take up the reins at Dover College after 12 years at the helm, and to Sandy Westhead and Malcolm Ford. Also there was the presentation of a plaque to commemorate the distinguished war service of Vernon Douglas Page, DFC.

Jane Gunner

30 Years On – 3rd July 2011

An unexpected call from the esteemed former head prefect Tudor R. to persuade me to organise a 30 year reunion for the leavers of 1981 produced the response, why me? And from some old school friends who I still see regularly: "I think I might be busy that night", before a night had even been suggested.

From this less than promising start we ended up having an enormously enjoyable weekend. Mary Alexander contacted me from her home in Devon and was very enthusiastic about the idea so she pursued the girls, and I sent out messages to any boys I could contact. The message was supposed to go viral but remained haphazard, and to anyone who would have come but didn't know about it, my apologies but where are you?

And so it came to pass that on 2nd July 2011 in a beautiful Moroccan tent in the garden of the Bathurst Arms, surrounded by burning oil lamps, a doctor, a stock broker, a financial consultant some farmers and a civil

servant of some standing met and came to the conclusion that firstly, one's income seemed to be inversely proportionate to the level of one's academic achievement, and that after 30 years we all got on like old familiar friends and thoroughly enjoyed the experience as well as the food and wine. Present on that evening were (sorry girls I'm sticking with school names): **Mary Alexander, Francesca Hughes, Fiona Wilson** and husband Andrew, **Fiona Wilson(2), Liza Manners** and



Rebecca Norman with her husband **Rob Webb, Adam Martyn-Smith, John Gotley** with wife Louise, **Andy Harris, Duncan White**, and me, **Tom Paton** and my wife Suzie. Francie and myself were joined at the college on Sunday by **Maria Bitner** and **Mark Dibble** (see picture).

To all of you who came, thank you so much, I genuinely had a lovely time and really enjoyed catching up. And will we do it again? Who knows, maybe if I get another phone call from an esteemed former head prefect!

Tom Paton

Presentation at Summer Reunion, 3rd July 2011

Chris Millman of the Battle of Britain Historical Society provided the following report on the presentation of a plaque in commemoration of **Vernon Douglas Page** (1924-31).

Sunday July 3 was a rather pleasant sunny day in the heart of Gloucestershire and ideal for celebrating a man who, not only fought through the Battle of Britain with 610 Squadron, but also served through to the end of World War Two. He also had a long career after the war in Australia.

Doug Page was born in the Forest of Dean and attended Rendcomb College near Cirencester and this was where we all met on this day to honour Doug Page with a plaque. This was a special day for the college as it was also Old Rendcombians' day. This meant that a large number of former students of the college had gathered for their AGM and there was a cricket match also taking place. The magnificent building was, indeed, a wonderful setting for this occasion. In addition to the headmaster and some staff of the college, the committee of the Old Rendcombian Society attended the presentation ceremony along with a number of relatives of Doug Page. Doug's brother, Wing Commander Stanley Page, formerly with Bomber Command, was very much the centre of attention. Now in his 90s, Stanley was able to recount many stories about his brother. An entertaining and very thorough address was given by Group Captain David Lester-Powell, of Air Command at High Wycombe, who described in great detail the RAF career of Doug Page.

There was a reading by Kat Daly of the college lower sixth, and after the plaque had been presented by Bill White, president of the Old Rendcombian Society, the Last Post and Reveille was played by James Mudge, a 4th Form pupil.

The headmaster, Gerry Holden, concluded the proceedings with a few remarks and mentioned that he was about to move from the college to take up a similar position at Dover College. Before the day was over, he had given an undertaking to work with the Society to have a plaque presentation at Dover as soon as he has settled in. We are already preparing for that event.

After recently attending plaque presentations where the men being honoured had lost their lives during the war, it was a nice contrast to honour a man who had served in the Battle of Britain but who had survived and had a full life up to the age of 88.

The plaque is mounted in the college library where it will be regularly seen by the studious youngsters of Rendcomb College.

VERNON DOUGLAS PAGE DFC (1924-31)



Gerry Holden, (headmaster 1999 -2011), James Mudge (pupil), Liz Williams (niece), Alex Fox (niece), Wing Commander Stanley Page (brother), Group Captain David Lester-Powell (past parent), Bill White (OR president), Kate Daly (pupil), Clive Millman (Battle of Britain Historical Society).

40 Years On

The idea of a reunion was conceived in **David Williams's** sitting room at Christmas 2010 when **Hartley Moore** was visiting from Bangkok. The real challenge was contacting 16 people, some of whom we had not seen for 40 years. Although Facebook proved unhelpful, the internet in the form of Google and Friends Reunited came to our rescue. Sadly we discovered that **Roger Laycock** had died (see 2011 newsletter). Finally we tracked down 11 and 9 of these were keen to meet up, so the Crown of Crucis was booked for dinner and accommodation.

Sitting in the garden of the Crown of Crucis for tea and cakes (lots of cakes!) on the Saturday, as each car drew up, we wondered if the occupant was an older version of one of our form mates or not! All very entertaining - of course people may change their appearance but essentially they are the same underneath. **Chris Wood,**

David Williams, Ian Niel, Dave Toresen, Andy Stafford, Eddie Parsons, Tony Rose, Andy Thompson and their other halves enjoyed reminiscing over dinner, swapping stories and catching up on 40 years. On the Sunday we were joined by **Julian** and **Eva Gray**, and we explored old haunts and enjoyed meeting other ORs. Meanwhile Tony Rose played with great enthusiasm for the OR cricket team and sustained an injury resulting in a visit to the hospital (not exactly novel for a consultant anaesthetist!).

We decided that we probably should not leave it another 40 years before meeting up again.

Chris Wood



(Back) Tony Rose (digitally transferred from top field!), Chris Wood, Ian Niel, Andy Stafford, Julian Gray, David Williams (Front) David Toresen, Andy Thompson, Eddie Parsons

2011 Summer reunion for the Class of '60

Jon Hiscox writes: In July 2010 I celebrated my 60th birthday with a party in my son's pub (where else?), and a couple of ORs joined us for the fun. That was the catalyst to arrange a more substantial reunion of the class of '60. Following initial tentative soundings the college readily agreed to host our gathering, and enough form-mates showed interest.

There were only 9 pupils in form I in Autumn 1960 and I was able to make contact with 7 of them. Of those 5 made it to the reunion on the 3rd July. As the form moved up through the school many boys joined it, and a few left. I think a total of 25 passed through our ranks and 15 managed to join us on the day. Sadly I could not find all of the class, despite much help from my colleagues, and especially Jane Gunner. At my request 13 of them agreed to write and circulate their life stories before the event.

These sketches and the endless conversations on the day were fascinating in their variety and interest. Of no less interest were the views and experiences of those who were not as enthusiastic about their time at Rendcomb. Some of them had little or no desire to return. That was sad, but I guess inevitable. So much has changed at Rendcomb since we were there! There were only 90 of us in the whole school in 1960. No girls, no nursery, no junior school, but Bill White was still here to keep us under control with his all seeing presence!



From left to right: Jack Hemming, Vyvyan Rayner, Henry Peterson, Bill Griffiths, Anthony Hillier, Peter Little, Hattie Hillier, Robert Goodsell, Sue Hiscox, Theo Wilford, Sarah Pressland, Paul Chanin, Nigel Green, Mike Dawson, Jon Hiscox, Carlotta Dawson, Pat Green

Bill Griffiths suggested and conducted a trivia quiz, which was won in style by Peter Little. The quiz did much to remind us of the past, and in my case at least to remind me how poor is my memory of those details.....

Jim Fonseca volunteered to organise a buffet supper in the Bathurst Arms, where he and several others were booked for the night. We were joined by Jane Gunner, Colin Burden and Bill White who shared memories with us as the sun sank on a most enjoyable day. For me the quote that said it all was from Jim: “my abiding memory of the event will be Vyv’s artic parked next to Jack’s improbable three wheeler.... there may be hope for humanity yet... as to Rendcomb it seemed both innocuous and prosaic.... two dimensional, like waking from a dream, a place without shadows.... perhaps because it was never the building itself but the personalities that inhabited it at the time.... another century...which indeed it was...”

For the record the following were there: **Paul Chanin (+Sarah), Nick Dakin, Theo Willford, Mike Dawson (+Carlotta), Jim Fonseca, Robert Goodsell, Nigel Green (+Pat), Bill Griffiths, Jack Hemming, Anthony Hillier (+Hatty), Jon Hiscox (+Sue), Peter Little, Henry Peterson, Vyvyan Rayner, Geoff Smith (+Judy)**



At the Bathurst, Sunday evening

Clockwise bottom left corner: Bill Griffiths, Geoff Smith, Robert Goodsell, Michelle Dakin, Nick Dakin, Vyv Rayner, Theo Wilford, Jack Hemming, Paul Chanin

35 Years On - 3rd July 2011



Then and now....



Congratulations

Alice Hughes (1995-2003) PhD in the biological sciences department at the University of Bristol (zoology: the conservation and biogeography of Southeast Asian bats)

Emily Apps (2004-08) 1st Class Honours BA in Musical Theatre from Trinity LABAN

Polly Rudderham (1999-2004) Distinction, MSc in social and organisational psychology from Exeter University.

Chris Pulford (1970-77) appointed principal to the headship of Gstaad International School, Switzerland.

Greg Dorey (1967-73)
Appointed British ambassador to Ethiopia, Djibouti and British Representative to the African Union.

Greg is pictured here with Ethiopian athletes who hope to take part in the London 2012 Olympics.



Births

Jonathan (1974-79) and Zoe **Steed**, twins, Jack and Sophia, September 2011.

Ian (1988-95) and Naomi **Thompson**, a daughter Mia, June 2011.

Marriages



Anthony Flambard (1971-78) and **Penny Jones** (1976-78), August 2011

Obituaries

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

Denis Montgomery (1936-44)

Died on 2nd November 2011 after a long illness, borne with fortitude and cared for devotedly by his wife and elder daughter. He came originally from County Durham in 1931 when his father became general secretary of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Cooperative Society Ltd. Sadly he died soon after, leaving his widow with two young sons. Denis came to Rendcomb as a foundation scholar from Longlevens Elementary School, Gloucester. By a happy coincidence the headmaster, Mr. H. Barwell, was the father of an original Rendcomb pupil in 1920. Denis was awarded an open history scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford in 1943 thanks to John James's teaching and was a member of an upper VIth form which produced six scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge – three in history, two in natural sciences and one in mathematics. He always remembered with gratitude the kindness and excellent teaching of Denis Lee-Browne, John James, Granston Richards, Ernest Neal and Robin Wilson.

He served in the army from 1944 to 1947 and was commissioned into the Gloucestershire Regiment – the 28th Foot, serving in India, Egypt and Palestine. While in India he had the misfortune to be pursued by a mob harangued by Pandit Nehru in 1946. "They were after me not because I was, however junior and unworthy, a representative of the British Raj, but because I had just drawn money from the bank to pay the men". Mr. Nehru was electioneering for Indian Independence. From a splendid Chrysler lent to him by the millionaire Tata family who were keen to be on good terms with the Congress Party. "I was on a second hand bicycle. I pedalled as fast as I could and reached the fort in time. The men got their money and I had a stiff scotch and soda for my exertions." He and Rowley Morris, another of John James's open history scholars, were at Wadham together in the late 40's. In the immediate post-war period there were fifteen old Rendcombians at Oxford and Cambridge, nine of them old pupils of John James, a remarkable achievement for a small school of under a hundred pupils.

Denis emigrated to southern Rhodesia in the early 50s and on returning to the UK some years later decided to become a schoolmaster with the help and encouragement of Denis Lee-Browne and John James. He taught in the north and in Kent for over thirty years and was for many years an examiner for the Cambridge board. He was a popular and well respected teacher, with no time for trendy educational theories or their practitioners. To paraphrase Disraeli, he said: "There was nonsense, complete nonsense and the latest educational theory." His

pupils claimed he could get a corpse through O and A levels, provided it knew his notes and applied them relevantly. He was a good sportsman, playing rugby in South Africa and Rhodesia and Yorkshire league cricket. He reached the peak of his career when he bowled Frank Worrell, the West Indies captain, with an innocuous half-volley in a benefit match in Yorkshire. This enraged the benefit recipient, a stalwart of the local club,

“Tha daft bugger. They’ve come to see Frank bat, not thee bowl.”

Denis loved Rendcomb and its memories and was very sad that increasing disability prevented him re-visiting in his last years.

(He taught at what was Ashford Grammar School (where my father was headmaster from 1934-41, and is now the Norton-Knatchbull School. My father, by chance, was head of his Cambridge examiners panel.

Bill White

Miles Charles Thompson, (1939-43) died on 28th December 2010. His daughter Victoria Whitworth wrote that he always spoke of the school with tremendous affection, and she would love to hear from anyone who remembers him.

Michael Petter (1944-52)

Michael's son John writes:

Michael Petter, (1933-2010) who attended Rendcomb in the years after world war two, died peacefully at his home in Hertfordshire in October last year.

Michael very much enjoyed his time at Rendcomb, believing its egalitarian ethos encouraged independence of mind and intellectual self confidence; he also remembered fondly the practical jokes he and his friends enjoyed. After Rendcomb, Michael performed much of his national service in the canal zone in Egypt where he developed a fascination with the Middle East and its politics that remained throughout his career. Next, he went to Queen’s College, Oxford, where he read modern history, was an enthusiastic president of the Stubbs Society and played sport for the college.

Narrowly missing a first, he began postgraduate study on the court politics of Charles II, before deciding instead to try for the fast track of the civil service. Michael entered the Ministry of Supply, then the Ministry of Aviation, ending up at the Department of Trade and Industry. He married Evelyn Leakey in Cambridge in 1965 and had two sons, Hugh and John.

Michael served a wide variety of ministers including Tony Benn, Norman Tebbit, Michael Heseltine and Alan Clarke. He never lost the habit of offering rigorous, well reasoned (if not always well received!), independent advice.

Michael rose steadily through the ranks, and ended his career responsible for UK trade with the Middle East. After retirement he appeared as a witness in the Scott Enquiry, where he was commended for the quality of his evidence. After Eve’s death in 1997, Michael’s main interests were local history and travel - the latter conducted at an exhausting pace, often in remote regions of the world, impervious to the discomforts involved. He was prized by his many friends and family for his dry wit, vast range and depth of interests and his unstoppable energy.

Geoffrey Waters (1929-1931) died in 2006 aged 90 years old.

Graham H. G. Herbert (1949-57)

Graham’s wife Pamela writes:

Graham died on 22nd June 2011 aged 72. He had been in a nursing home for 6 years. His illness was diagnosed in 2001, (though he had not worked since 1987), as multi systems atrophy. He lost most of his eyesight and was totally paralysed before his death. Speech was very difficult for him which he found hard, but his sense of humour saw him through very trying times. He was very well liked by all his carers and we shall all miss him very much.

Louis Webb (1957-66) died in 2009

Max Chase, who coached hockey in the late 1980s, died in March 2012 aged 95. Max was a real enthusiast and was able to inspire the most reluctant of hockey players. In his time he had played hockey at a high level for the RAF.

Joan Essenhigh (staff 1973-2003) died in the Cheltenham Sue Ryder home on 23rd January 2012 after a year long fight with cancer aged 74. The thanksgiving service at Compton Abdale church was attended by current staff, former staff and old Rendcombians, which was most appropriate as Joan touched the lives of many

associated with Rendcomb. Joan came to Rendcomb in 1968 with her husband David, who had been appointed groundsman and cricket coach, and their three girls, Sue, Margaret and Sarah. Their fourth daughter, Kate, would be born in Rendcomb. They lived in Park Cottage with its idyllic setting tucked down below the playing fields.



David and Joan Essenhigh in 2000

Joan's experience in medical laboratories made her an ideal candidate as a lab technician and she began by preparing physics practicals under Jack Fell in 1973 and later moved to the biology department in 1983. Her attention to detail and interest in the work ensured that practicals were always well prepared. This level of support is essential for all science teachers but especially for the many new teachers she helped. So it was very fitting that Bridget Trump (née Goldsmith), Mike Newby and Carlo Vuolo represented the biology department alongside old Rendcombians, Rendcombians, former staff and current staff at the thanksgiving service in Compton Abdale Church.

Joan had always watched David play the major sporting role in the family with his cricket but Joan became interested in archery and she was very good at it, so much so that she represented Gloucestershire. In addition she introduced archery as a minor sport at Rendcomb and founded the Churn Valley Archers Club. Joan also contributed to the pastoral care at Rendcomb by carrying out duties in Park House and she became fully immersed when she ran Godman House in the Michaelmas term of 2004 for Rachel Fielding. Her genuine care and calm approach to problems was always very much appreciated.

Joan and David retired to Compton Abdale in 2003 and enjoyed many interesting holidays together.

This message to the family was found in her journal and was read out at the service: "I have had the most wonderful life. Now go on and live your lives. Please don't grieve. It happens to everyone at some point. Enjoy!"

Chris Wood

Phillip Dunn (staff: 1984-2011)

It was just over ten years ago when I first met Phillip whilst teaching at The Cheltenham Ladies College. He had just joined the music department to teach acoustic guitar and it was a particular delight for me to find that we had many common interests. Within minutes it was as if we had known each other for years.

Softly spoken and unassuming, Phillip radiated a passion for, and a love of, music in all its guises, and he established enduring friendships with colleagues and students alike. As an educator, Phillip will be

remembered by the innumerable students who benefited first-hand from his expertise as a musician, aided by gentle persuasion and encouragement and seemingly boundless patience. His uncanny ability to establish and maintain a rapport with all his students is testament to his skill as a caring teacher. Of course many of his students learned solely for pleasure, but Phillip also delighted in those who decided to pursue their musical interests professionally.

A few years later I joined Rendcomb College and to my utmost delight Phillip was there to greet me. He had established the teaching of the guitar at the college some twenty or so years earlier and as the elder statesman of the music department, I benefited from his wise counsel on many occasions. Phillip was a measured person, who considered carefully before offering comment, but he was prone to the odd outburst albeit on the stage. Phillip was a closet bass player who enjoyed thrashing out a bass line or two in the staff rock band, sometimes taking the lead vocals too. I really shouldn't have been surprised, Phillip was very much a 'can do, let's do' kind of person, though it really was quite extraordinary to witness the rapid change to a hardened rocker. Phillip was also held in high regard for his status as an accomplished and versatile performer on the acoustic guitar and lute. He performed countless concerts, made recordings, and particularly enjoyed duetting with his son Jolyon, of whom Phillip was intensely proud.



Phillip playing the mandolin in the Reading Room at Rendcomb College

Over the past year, I have often reflected upon Phillip's last solo concert performance, which was part of an evening of remembrance at Rendcomb College in November 2010. Phillip chose to play Dowland's celebrated *Pavana lacrimae*, a work for lute, which was wholly appropriate for the contemplative nature of the occasion, but perhaps also reflected Phillip's inner feelings at the time. The work is well known in a later version for voice and lute, and opens with the words: Flow, my tears, fall from your springs!

Phillip was a truly remarkable man. He was a polymath with a seemingly boundless knowledge of literature, geography, history and a multitude of other disciplines. An acute observer of human nature, he enriched the lives of everyone around him. He enjoyed the respect of his colleagues, students and friends, was unfailingly kind, and generous to a fault with his skills, expertise and time; he inspired innumerable students to pursue their musical interests at the highest possible level.

Phillip will be sorely missed.

Roy Raby (Director of Music 2007-11)

Memories

In answer to **Desmond Painter's** views of the immediate post-war period at Rendcomb, the late **Denis Montgomery** (1936-44) wrote:

DWLB was not 'large', but of medium height, sturdily built with a strong personality and great kindness. His wife Freda was also very generous. He was never reactionary. He was regarded, with his progressive views

and his piano-accordion, with some suspicion by the local people. His attitude to Churchill, the conduct of the war, the treatment of conscientious objectors, the British Empire and the Americans was to the left of centre, though he moved slightly to the right later on.

Miss Young was an excellent teacher, as was Robin Wilson, who had been commissioned and served in France. Mr Knowles was an excellent French teacher.

'I would never denigrate those to whom I owe gratitude.' 'De mortuis nil nisi bonum'

Peter Jones writes of his father: **William Francis James Jones** (1924-31) was a pupil at Rendcomb. Sadly he passed away some 23 years ago. My father was a good friend of a **Dick Field**, an artist writer of some note locally. My father often asked me to take him to Rendcomb in his later years, which I found somewhat daunting as I was a secondary school boy. Dad was a gentleman in all aspects, and often spoke fondly of his schooldays era. I have a small book, *Champagne Days*, signed by Dick Field "To Bill Jones, we were friends even before we went to Rendcomb, Dick Field, 1984", the last time Dad visited Rendcomb. Dad is pictured on the front cover of the book 5th from the left with a shock of dark hair. Dad was a gentleman, in more ways than I care to remember, and this is all down to his formative years at Rendcomb, it made him what he was and his attitudes were passed on to me and I have endeavoured to pass them on to my son and his children. Thanks Rendcomb.

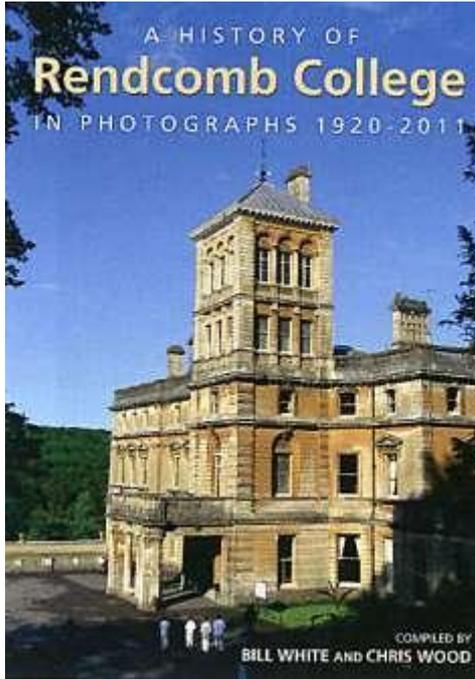
Further extracts from **Desmond Painter's** (1943-52) memoirs

Discipline was not harsh: the two standard punishments were 'sides' of (usually unspecified) writing on lined quarto school paper, or 'work' in units of half an hour, which took place in the 'Public Work' slot on Tuesday afternoons (mentioned below). There was no corporal punishment (except that, very occasionally, DWLB would offer to 'commute' an excessive backlog of hours' work by exchanging it for a caning: an option I was only offered once).

Sport: We had gym twice a week, and games 'on top', also twice a week. I quite enjoyed gym at first, went off (and bunked off) it later, and went back on it again in the sixth form. As far as games were concerned, I hated soccer (there weren't enough in the school for rugby, though it was adopted after my time when the school enlarged). At hockey (on which DWLB was keen - he used to officiate regularly in our games as an umpire) I was nifty on the left wing, and quite enjoyed it, eventually in the sixth form playing for the school. I got interested in and moderately good at cricket, eventually playing in the first XI, where I opened the batting with limited success, fielded in the slips, and took the occasional wicket with my left arm leg spinners. Sport was not a big thing at Rendcomb, and it was not necessary to be good at it (or, indeed, at anything in particular). DWLB was against individual competition, and there was little in the way of athletics, except for a display put on for founder's day in the summer term, although there was an annual 'lodges' race of about two and a half miles down the Cheltenham drive, along the road at the bottom, and back up the Cirencester drive. Tennis courts were available, including in free time, and I quite enjoyed tennis too when I got older.

Exams: The head's reluctance to accord prominence to individual performers was manifest in other areas of school life. For example, no solos were sung in the choir. Although against exams, DWLB reluctantly conceded that they should take place at the end of every school year, and John James was in his element organising them. Before the first exam, he would make a dramatic appearance from behind the curtains on to the stage to read out the rules ("Any boy found cheating will be thrown from the room, and his examination paper will be torn up"), and results (A+ to E-) would appear against each name on the notice board in due course. Nothing much happened if you got an E-. The formal public exams took place in the village hall, where hail on the tin roof necessitated repetition of my French dictation in the school certificate. During one of the other exams at that time I discovered, in a moment of boredom, some beetle drive cards in the little drawer of my table. I was handing them round for my neighbours to look at when the aptly named Miss Organ, Miss Carnell's successor as music mistress, who was invigilating, looked up. She told me to put them away at once, "and if I see you doing anything like that again I'll... I'll... well, I won't tell you what I'll do".

Photographic History of Rendcomb College



Bill White and Chris Wood have put together this 104 page A4 photographic record of the school from its foundation in 1920 until 2011. Why 2011? Well it was to be 2010 to celebrate 90 years of the college but it was extended to 2011 to include the latest change of headmaster. The photographs range from official ones of specific events to informal ones taken by pupils and staff. As well as captions naming pupils in many cases, there is additional information about key individuals, buildings, sports and other subjects.

Arranged in decades, this history of the college is quite different from the two volumes published previously and the images give a real sense of how the college has changed from one decade to another, including the addition of the junior school in 2000. The price is just £10 plus P & P.

To purchase a copy you have the following options: 1. Send a cheque for £12.80 (UK) and your address to:

Mr W J D White, 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, Cheltenham, Glos, GL54 3JG

2. Order online, soon to be available on Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk)

3. E-mail the secretary or treasurer to find the overall cost if you need the book to be sent outside the UK

Acknowledgements

Sandy Westhead writes:

Thank you for last Sunday (3rd July 2011), which was a memorable day. It was full of smiles and was just what I had needed following the death of my mother the week before.

The print is hanging in the dining room and will be, I'm sure, the source of many conversations over meals. The flowers, which match my living room, continue to smell heavenly and will do for days to come.

Thank you all for your kind words that day and in the magazine, they were very much appreciated.



Liese and Gerry Holden write:

Please will you pass on our thanks to the OR Society for their generous hospitality and lovely gift on Sunday. We have always valued the warmth and friendliness of the OR Society and now that we are officially part of it, look forward to hearing your news and keeping in touch.



Liese with Gerry as Willie Wonka at a charity ball

Old Rendcombian News

Jonathan Steed (1974-79) writes:

I very much enjoy reading everybody else's news yet have not written myself for years so here goes.

To recap, I left Rendcomb in the summer of 1979 and can hardly believe that over 32 years have now elapsed, and believe it or not it seems like yesterday! I don't know whether it is the milestone of having reached 50 this year but recently I felt an urge to reconnect with old friends from my time at Rendcomb. Part of this is curiosity; another part is recognising that although we were so young and at times incredibly childish, these relationships were very special. Out of the blue last week my old mate **Adrian Sergison** (1972-77) called. We had not spoken in over 11 years but the conversation flowed like it had been yesterday. I am sure that bond still exists and I often wonder what has become of my contemporaries, particularly those with whom I have had no contact over the last few years such as Phil Evans, Middy, Ondine G, Sarah R, Josephine T, Kim K, Jon Porch to name but a few? If any of you wish to get in touch please do call on 07774 126660, it would be lovely to hear from you.

It was great talking to Adrian who, having sampled the beer industry, set the firework industry alight and then retrained as an electrician, is at last his own boss and loving it. I actually felt quite envious of the freedom this gives him. Meantime I continue to work in the city in the reinsurance industry and after 29 years at Marsh moved to Aon in 2009, where I much enjoy the variety of roles I perform. The switchover involved 6 months of 'gardening leave', of which we absolutely made the most, visiting Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand, Zermatt, Dubai, Rome and sailing in the Caribbean.....it was fabulous and I have to say my favourite destination was South Island, New Zealand, it is stunning! I even started writing a book entitled 'insights' which contains lessons I have learnt in single sentences such as 'if I had heeded all the advice I have given out myself, my life would certainly have been a lot richer.' One day when I find my own 'electrician moment' I will surely finish it and fulfil a passion to teach and to help men with their relationships with self and others. My main news of the last six months is that I became a father again in September to twins, Jack and Sophia; with their elder sisters, Annabel (23) and Gabriella (17) I am now the very proud father of four kids! Anna having graduated last summer is now studying for a masters degree at the University of Westminster and Gabi has just completed her GCSEs with amazing grades and aspires to be a consultant psychologist for young children. I am truly blessed. My brother **Tim** (1977-80) is doing well and working for the police in their youth offending team in Swindon... ironically he just sent me a text message a minute ago, saying that he is sipping

champagne at le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons while I am still in the office sipping Fair Trade coffee!
I remarried in 2004 and Zoe and I now live in Datchet (near Windsor). The twins were a long time coming and we had even been through 3 years of an adoption process before Zoe fell pregnant. I am sure there are a few sleepless nights ahead but their gurgles and smiles make our world a brighter place. Very best wishes to you all.

Professor David Mabberley (1959-66), who is now an Australian citizen, has left his post as Keeper (Director) of the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and has returned to New South Wales. As executive director of the Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, he will be responsible for the management of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden and Domain, the National Herbarium of New South Wales, the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah. David holds a number of respected positions including visiting professor at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands and adjunct professor at the University of Western Sydney.

Barney Branston (1982-87) now lives in Shropshire and is practising law from chambers in London. He was married in 1998 and has three sons. He is now living the 'good life' away from the Central Line!

Ben Almond (1978-85) still works for Commerz bank and is responsible for all the bank's branches outside Germany. This involves a lot of travel, as he has offices all over Asia, eastern and western Europe, the Middle East and the United States. He is still the secretary and coach of his local judo club and runs weekly training sessions when possible. One of his sons is to train with the British olympic judo team squad.

Robin Dale (1958-62) was on Countryfile in January. He is chairman of the National Hedge Laying Society.

Ben Knapp (1977-84) is still with IBM in their global business services division focusing on the public sector. His two daughters are doing well at Rendcomb. Ben says that, to make a change from work, he decided to play a bit more tennis in 2011. He ended up winning the national over-45 veterans singles title at Wimbledon, and was then selected for the Great Britain team and played in the world team championships in California in February, where the team reached the semi-finals having beaten Mexico, Sweden and Austria before going out to the French resulting in them achieving fourth place. Italy were the surprise winners.



Ian Underdown (1970-75) writes:

By way of a quick update, I sold much of my company in 2006 which gave me time and means to follow my passion for sailing. My wife Joann and I sold our house in Calgary and bought a 44' ocean going catamaran. In 2007 we set sail from Toronto for our around-the-world adventure. We had been at sea for less than 12 months when she was diagnosed with cancer. We had to buy a house and we had always wanted to live on the west coast of Canada so we moved to Vancouver Island in 2008. Tragically she lost her battle with cancer in 2009. Since

then I have regrouped and am staying busy. I have learned to fly and am flying both fixed wing aeroplanes and helicopters. I am running marathons and enjoying the many places to visit and things to do on Vancouver Island. I still have the catamaran and spent a very agreeable winter cruising the Caribbean last winter. **Chris Hart** (1970-77) and wife Caroline joined me for two weeks and I think they enjoyed it once they found their sea legs.

Carol Lamble née Franklin (1977-79) and **Jane Franklin** (1980-82) represented Cirencester Tennis Club on the BBC2 tv quiz show 'Eggheads' in February. Carol currently has a son at Rendcomb.

Rob Webb (1974-81) wrote :

Just seen the 2011 Newsletter. Good to catch up with the news, and thank you very much to Richard and everybody else who produce it. I'm a bit embarrassed by an entry which I didn't know about which describes me as in and out of 10 Downing Street - probably fortunately for the government of the country that's not accurate. Obscure civil servant would be a better description! For those who know us **Rebecca née Norman**, (1979-81) and I are well and living in Brighton, and hoping we will get to some part of the Rendcombian weekend on 2-3 July and see some of the 1981 leavers then.

Adam Binder (1982-87) was short-listed for the David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year competition for the second time in 2011. This time winning the 3D category for his Leopard in Bronze, he missed out on the

overall winner prize this year, which went to a young artist from Zimbabwe, David Fiter. Adam also received highly commended for his Polar Swift (3D), Tortoise (3D) and In The Rain (3D).

John ‘JD’ Sinclair (1971-78) writes that he is living in Surrey but manages to see a number of ORs. **George Ord** (2008-10) is John’s nephew and the most recent of the dynasty to attend Rendcomb. John attended the wedding of **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78) and **Penny Jones** (1976-78) on 13 Aug 2011. Also present were **Danielle Shrimpton da Luz** (née Shrimpton), **Debbie Purton** (née Harrison), **Sheila Greenfield** (all 1976-78), **Graham Moore**, **Tim Parfit**, **Treve Evans**, **Andy Mackonochie** and **Joe Watson** (all 1971-78).



Penny and Anthony in Park House, 1978

Chris Pulford (1970-77) wrote:

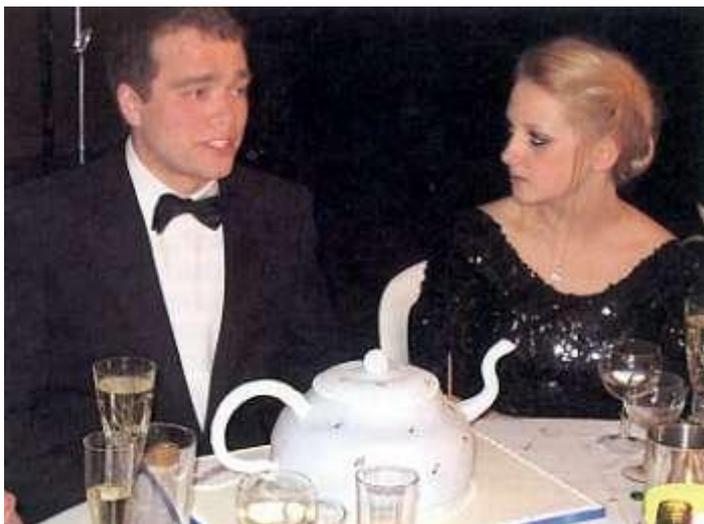
My wife Lara and I moved from London to Athens in late 2003 in time to see the Greeks preparing for the 2004 Olympics which they managed to pull off very successfully. At the time I was ‘promised’ a very interesting project development job assisting in the restoration of a large neoclassical building in Plaka at the foot of the Acropolis. This assignment fell through in typically Greek fashion, which led me to return once again to my carpentry skills (thank you, always, CCB) building furniture both for private customers and fitting out shops selling children’s clothes. During this time I did some private tutoring but more significantly, I joined a rock and blues band, which specialised in playing covers of well known material. We made some decent money and had an enormous amount of fun playing at parties, US embassy functions and weddings. Our crowning achievement was to play to 5,000 people at a large corporate function at the Olympic stadium. My Rendcomb dream of becoming a rock star had finally come true nearly 40 years after being mesmerised by

Mike Findlay and his band Ad Nauseam playing ‘Split’ Part 2 not to mention ‘Purple Haze’. He should have heard our ‘Sultans of Swing’!

One of our gigs took place at the International School of Athens where following a conversation with the director, I was invited to fill a vacancy as a teacher of science, theory of knowledge and business studies. This led to my appointment as middle school principal in 2009. Having rediscovered the satisfaction of teaching physics, chemistry and biology and managing a fairly unruly bunch of 11-14 year olds - many of them Greeks, I found myself planning my escape from Greece. My family had since relocated back to London. The economic climate and general sense of doom and gloom in Athens has seriously impacted on the quality of life. Many people are leaving and the picture is looking bleak for some years to come. This beautiful country is on its knees. And it is horribly expensive.

During a recent half term break a chance meeting with a friend of a friend culminated in my being offered the headship of Gstaad International School, Switzerland. I gratefully accepted. A more orderly and puritanical environment will suit me very well.

Rendcomb has left its mark on us all and I hope I can pass on some of the inspiration gained so many decades ago in my new job. Now that the Swiss Alps beckon, as a family we can look forward to some rural living and clean air with no trace of tear gas. I hope Rendcomb friends will visit if they are in the area.



Mark Gunner (2001-08) with the incredible teapot cake made for his 21st birthday party by Pat Poole (staff 1971-2010)

Charlotte Ellis (1999-2004) has had an impressive run of success in the world of golf. In 2011 she won the Helen Holm Scottish Open at Royal Troon and subsequently reached the semi-finals of the English women's amateur championship at West Sussex in May 2011. She has now earned her tour card by finishing in the top-ten at the La Manga tournament in Spain in January this year. In March she took part in the Calla Meryem Cup in Agadir, Morocco with brother **Phil** (2001-08) acting as caddy.



ORs In Print

Eric Collett (1935-37) has written: 'My Ninety Years by Eric Collett'.

He says if you put that title into Google you can read every page. Go to 'Review Book' and when it comes up, click on to 'Full page', a small little square thing. The book explains why he has been through Heathrow seventy three times. The book has been put together on Blurb by an American publisher. He makes no money from it. Eric is ninety-one and still active.

Philip Lyons (1970-76) has a book of poetry entitled 'Like it is' out. It is available on Amazon. He says he started writing poetry while still at Rendcomb and the late John Holt (staff 1968-1996) encouraged him by allowing him to submit a poem alongside any other composition they had to do for homework (and then recording whichever got the higher mark). It's only taken another 35 years to get a full-length collection published!

Jane Gunner (1975-77) now has four of her historical romances available on Amazon and to download on Kindle under her maiden name Janey Watson. Proceeds eventually find their way to Cirencester Housing for Young People, charity number 299821.

Martin Griffiths (staff 1982-2003) is a photographer and writer for Herefordshire Life.

Joseph Smedley (staff 1950s) has written a book of poetry, 'Out of Time'.

Gerard Benson (1944-50) has multiple books on poetry in print. Titles such as 'Poems on the Underground', 'To Catch an Elephant' and 'Does W Trouble You?' are listed on Amazon.

The late **Douglas Payne's** (1940-48) memoirs, 'A Local Boy at Rendcomb College during the War' are available from Jane Gunner for £5 + p&p. There are also a few copies of the late **Dick Field's** (1924-31) 'Champagne Days'.

Bill White (staff 1961-97) and **Chris Wood** (1965-71, staff: 1976-2009), 'A History of Rendcomb College in Photographs 1920-2011' (see page 15 for details of how to order a copy, all proceeds to OR Society).

College News

The Founder's Day speech for 2011 was given by **David Tyler** (1965-70), chairman of Sainsbury's. An excerpt is given below.

"I learned so much here. Clearly it wasn't just calculus, the Tudors and Stuarts and the laws of thermodynamics, though I benefited greatly from inspirational teachers here who taught me about all these topics. Nor was it only the team games, the theatrical performances, the cross country runs that I gained so much from. It was not just the fact that Rendcomb taught me how to put together an argument, to be logical - though it did all these things. No - it was because here I learned to look after the other person and how to do things for the common good. I learned how to make an independent judgement myself about what was morally right or wrong. Of course, I was heavily influenced by the values of my parents and family - but I've no doubt that those values were cemented in me right here in the Cotswolds in the late 60s."



During the Michaelmas term 2011 both **Jane Gunner** and Bill White spoke at Senior Chapel. Jane spoke about charities and becoming involved in local communities and societies, while Bill described for the pupils the changes, which had occurred at the college since he first came to teach there in the 1960s.

On Sunday 25th March, Rendcomb College held a Big Charity Day, organised by sixth formers Christian Couch and Andea Haas and marketing director, Sue Gilling.

The events were:

The Rendcomb Run, 5km and 10km, multi terrain

The prefects' fete

12 hour football marathon.

The charities, which benefited were ABF The Soldiers Charity, Helen and Douglas House, CHYP, Scrubbitch Care Farm, Sports Aid and Stratton Youth FC. In the 10k race the fastest male and female were ORs **Rory Gilling** (2005-10) and **Liza Dibble** (née **Manners**) (1979-81).

The day can be viewed at: http://www.furryfeet.tv/cotswolds/venue_video.php?footprint=605



A Level geographers went to Cirencester Science & Technology Society's fascinating talk by Jonathon Porritt CBE on 'Putting population at the heart of sustainability'. **Alex** (1980-87, staff :1994-) and Amanda (staff: 1994-) **Brealy** arranged the trip, which was chaired by Richard Gunner and hosted by Professor Chris Gaskill of the Royal Agricultural College



Pete Cairns, works manager at the college, has been honoured at a national awards ceremony. He earned the prestigious outstanding contribution award at the Archant Good Schools Show in London in October 2011. Parents and colleagues showed their gratitude for his contribution to the operation and management of Rendcomb's 200 acre estate, woodland and pitches when they nominated him. Mr Cairns said "I have the best job in the world. It's the perfect combination of farming and working with people."



Jessica Quick will be working in many areas of school life as a graduate assistant for a year starting in September. She has numerous family connections with Rendcomb. Her father, **James Quick** (1975-80), was a pupil at the college between 1975 and 1980. Her uncle Jace (**Jonathan**) was also at school at Rendcomb between 1979 and 1985, and her grandfather **Anthony Quick** (AOHQ), was the headmaster between 1961 and 1971. She is currently completing a degree, a BA in literature and history, at UEA and is the university lacrosse captain. Also currently completing a level one refereeing course, Jessica is currently employed as a sports and drama coach for a Norwich based company called 'Set Your Sights' which is an after school club and breakfast club.

For the second time in the college's history, the head girl is the child of two ORs. Holly Phelps is the daughter of **Adam** (1980-82) and **Jennifer** (née Watson, 1978-80) **Phelps**. Holly is part of the college lacrosse team which made history by being the first school team to win the National Small Schools Lacrosse trophy two years running.

The griffin below is the new college logo.



Staff Retirements

Lindsey North

Fiona Trumper (2000-09) writes: When I was told that Mr. North would be leaving Rendcomb my immediate thought was 'but who will teach the e, es, e, ons, ez, ent which you do not pronounce rhyme to the second years?'

Having been in the senior school from first form through to sixth form, and carrying French into A level, the first person who would come to mind when French was mentioned was Mr. North.

Some of my enduring memories will be his fantastic sense of humour, his performance in 'We Will Rock You' (something I don't think I've seen any other teacher at Rendcomb do) and finally, having coffee and biscuits from 'the shop' during triple A level French!

On a more serious note, Mr. North was a fantastic teacher too and always willing to help if there was a problem - right up to taking over the Easter holidays to help with exam preparations. But at the same time, he also took interest in his students not just for their knowledge in French, but also for their interests in other areas ranging from art and music to sports.

I do believe he will be greatly missed at Rendcomb, in all areas,

and the French department will fall silent without him there to sing Bruce Springsteen songs! I wish him the very best of luck for his departure from Rendcomb and would like to say thank you so much for his support and help.

Fiona is studying Textiles at Cardiff Metropolitan

Bobby Morgan (staff 1990-2007) writes: I first met Lindsey when he came on interview in 1996. By that time he was already a very experienced teacher of modern languages and an established character in his previous



teaching posts. I hesitate to say 'a man of the old school' but certainly Lindsey told me he had taught alongside some of the more traditional (and sometimes eccentric) of schoolmasters. However I soon found out that he was by no means confined to this mould as he proved to be an articulate and cultured colleague who was quickly into his stride in so many different areas of Rendcomb life. In no particular order, I can recollect his valuable contribution to the Cheltenham/Anney exchange, which many Rendcomb pupils enjoyed until political correctness and nanny state requirements saw off the scheme. He took on the administration of Rendcomb cricket and presided over it with a benevolent interest, although perhaps sometimes, if things had gone badly, he would rather have been watching Yorkshire play at Scarborough. A natural showman, he leapt on to the Rendcomb stage in drama productions such as 'Annie' and 'Grease'. All the while he ran the French department with style and his teaching made languages for his pupils both relevant and entertaining. Lindsey promoted an interest in French literature and culture and his enthusiasm seems to have been just as evident on the recent trip to Normandy as on all those other trips and social occasions that he has helped to run over the years.

Yet my own personal experience of Lindsey's qualities focused more than anywhere else on his time in Stable House as its housemaster. He had the essential requirements - a respect and affection for the pupils in his charge and endless patience in dealing with their disasters, more than compensated for by their triumphs, for that is what teenage boys' existence is all about. Unfortunately for me, my appearances in Stable House in my capacity as deputy head tended to be to provide support in dealing with the disasters rather than the triumphs but I was always struck by the sensitivity and compassion that Lindsey displayed in handling situations where boys were in trouble, even when he had every right to be livid with the culprit. I am sure that the boys in his care will remember and be grateful that they had a housemaster who was on their side.

I said earlier that Lindsey was a cultured colleague and this became more and more apparent the longer I knew him. He can hold court on a wide range of topics, particularly literature and popular music, conversing knowledgably with any comers - students or staff. I particularly enjoyed his enthusiasm for American history, although I was out of my depth on American literature, particularly the poetry of Walt Whitman. Popular music - he has certainly been there with his devotion to the work of Springsteen and Clapton, although he has a little way to go with his own playing!

Lindsey, ably supported by Barbara, has given a great deal to the college over a long career. He can look back and say that he really has done it all.

Joy Gibson (staff 1995-2012)

Richard Collins (2001-08) writes: Mrs Gibson taught me between 2001 and 2008. Her passion for teaching chemistry encouraged me to go on to study it at university. I will always be very grateful to her for her enthusiasm and help.

Her lessons and attitude towards teaching were always highly appreciated by the students, with her catchphrases becoming an Old Rec favourite. 6th form classes were an excellent environment to work in, occasionally involving a cup of tea in the lab technician's office. She thrived on getting the most out of her pupils and was always willing to give up her time for someone who needed it.

Mrs Gibson will be sorely missed by the school and well remembered by the students. I wish her all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

Richard is currently studying for a Masters in Chemistry at St Edmund Hall, Oxford University.

Chris Wood writes: When Ron Kelsey retired in 1995 and I became head of chemistry, it was always going to be a challenge to attract a well qualified and dedicated chemist to join the department and share the teaching at all levels. We were fortunate to appoint Joy who had taught at Denmark Road, Gloucester with its high standards and who had strong practical skills. It was immediately apparent that Joy is a thorough and



committed teacher and soon she took on the coordination of lower school science. She ensured that the science staff had access to well organised worksheets and a wealth of resources for practicals and demonstrations. She also arranged many interesting trips, including the annual visit to the Cheltenham Science Festival.

Joy always strives for clarity in her explanation of chemistry. She always tries to give extra time to those who needed it and to find ways of stretching the more able students by entering them for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemical Olympiad or for Advanced Extension papers. Consequently she was able to inspire many students to pursue chemistry or chemistry related degrees at university.

Joy took over the running of the department from me and provided great support when I became director of studies. Despite an absence due to a serious illness, Joy bounced back and threw herself into the teaching of chemistry once again. Finally she took on the responsibility of coordinating the biology, chemistry and physics departments.

Rendcomb has been fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher of chemistry, continuing a long tradition. The college will miss her and I speak for many old Rendcombians when I say ‘thank you for the chemistry and enjoy a long and happy retirement’.

Chris Wood (1965-71; staff 1976-2009)

Coasters and matching tablemats available from Jane Gunner at £25.00 per set plus postage and packing.



OR Travel Bursary

Ed Slark (2001-11) writes: In October 2011 I visited South Africa. Initially I was stranded in Cairo Airport for 30 hours due to a strike where an angry Arabic mob was tearing through duty free... not a good start.



Teaching the children skills required to be a photographer



Lion after a kill



Cheetah relaxing on the plains



Lightning over Kwantu

Eventually I arrived in Jo'berg, and travelled the somewhat lengthy journey up to Kruger National Park where I was taking a wildlife photography course. The course was amazing, however as I was staying in an eco camp the lack of hot water and electricity was not great! After this I flew down to Port Elizabeth to work on a private game reserve north-east of PE. Kwantu Lodge specialises in conservation work. This was an amazing experience and I thoroughly enjoyed working with the animals, the environment and meeting and making such good friends. The highlight being playing with lion, cheetah and tiger cubs (the tigers were there as part of a breeding programme) and riding and looking after the elephants at the reserve.

Following this, I journeyed along the famous Garden Route, stopping off at many of the landmarks along the way. While on this route, I swam with Great White Sharks at Mossel Bay, horse back rode in the mountains of Tsitsikamma, black water tubed and zip wired across a valley.

The whole experience was truly unforgettable and was one of the most incredible adventures I could have planned as part of my gap life.

Ed has subsequently held an exhibition of his photos in the Arts Block at the college which was very well attended and received.

Merchandise Questionnaire

As our stock of certain items of merchandise is now low or zero (rugby shirts, polo shirts, sweat shirts, ties) the committee has been looking into producing some new types of merchandise for the OR shop. Feedback from members would be helpful in determining what is offered in the future. Please email your responses to the treasurer chriswood99@btinternet.com or write to the secretary.

1. As an example, would you be interested in buying any of the following and, if so, up to what price? Sweater, scarf, tie, baseball cap, cuff links, polo shirt
2. Are there other items you would like to be on sale? Again suggest a maximum price.
3. Would you prefer (a) griffin only, (b) society name only, (c) griffin AND society name on any merchandise? Please respond and influence the development of the OR Shop.

OR Merchandise

A History in Photographs 1920-2011 £10 (NEW! see page 15)

History I £6 (all proceeds go to the Friends of Rendcomb)

History II £10 (all proceeds go to the Friends of Rendcomb)

Pamphlets about Saul £3

Memoirs of Douglas Payne £5

Sweat shirt £5

Rugby shirt £10

Tie £5

Blazer badge £5

Print of the school £40

Framed print £65

St Peter's Church mugs/OR mugs £4.40

Table mats & coasters £25

All prices subject to postage and packing

Cheques made payable to The Old Rendcombian Society please.

Jane Gunner jane@r2g2.co.uk

CRICKET - 3rd July 2011



Tommy Lait (1996-2003), Pat Boydell (1988-95).

Back row: Adam Padmore (1996-2001), Toby Harris (2005-07), Rich Witchell (1989-96), Chris Jarrett (1988-95) Front Row: Harley Phelps (2002-09), Ed Thomason (2005-10), James Brittain (2001-10), Alex Holden (2000-07)

This year's summer reunion saw an almost record attendance down at the school and we thankfully managed to put on a decent game of cricket for some of the returning years to watch.

We had gloriously sunny weather and enough players to play a Rendcomb team comprised mostly of pupils and bolstered with some older staff experience.

This was the second such OR fixture against Mike Slark's invitational side and we went in to the game being one-nil down in the series.

I am pleased to say that with a sublime combination of experience and youthful vigour the ORs once again proved that we are a force to be reckoned with... the figures speak for themselves...

ORs batting

T. Harris 36
A. Holden 46
J. Harris 29
J. Brittain 19

ORs 222 declared.

Rendcomb bowling

E. Thomason - 10 overs,
3 wickets for 28 runs.

ORs won by 117 runs

Rendcomb batting

L. Baynham 18
N. Ferreira 49
E. Thomason 22

Rendcomb 105 all out

ORs bowling

H. Phelps - 6 overs,
4 wickets for 11 runs
J. Brittain - 2 overs,
2 wickets for 2 runs

Special thanks must go to Mike Slark for organising the opposition. We look forward to the chance of taking the lead in this annual grudge match next year. Thanks also to all who came to play, watch and enjoy another wonderful summer's day up top.

Pat Boydell

Rugby Reunion - Saturday 3rd December 2011

This year's OR rugby saw the inaugural OR flag (tag) rugby event. Flag rugby has gained in popularity in recent years, having been commonplace in the southern hemisphere for some time. Thanks must go to James Spackman and the Old Pats Rugby Club in Cheltenham for lending us the flags and belts. Once the players got to grips with the latest rule modifications and found their feet, the quality of rugby was clear for all to see. Flag rugby allows players of all shapes, sizes and abilities to compete, as there is no contact. A player is 'tackled' when they have a flag removed from their velcro belt. The player must stop immediately and recycle the ball in a rugby league 'chicken scratch' fashion. The match was fiercely contested despite there not being any contact and the fast and furious nature of the game allowed for some very entertaining moments.

It was decided that flag rugby was accessible to more players and also thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward to having more players at next year's flag rugby event and hopefully having enough teams to run a round robin tournament.

Tommy Lait



Left to right: Pat Boydell (1988-95), Tommy Lait (1996-2003), James Brittain (2001-10), Stephen Jones (1988-95), Tim Bates (1996-2003), Adam Padmore (1996-2001), James Spackman (1997-2002), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), John Morgan (1988-95), Craig Marcham (1988-96), James Groombrige (2002-04), Max Webb-Dickin (2000-07), Chris Barefoot (2002-04), George Ord (2008-10), Harley Phelps (2002-09)



Tag rugby, a precursor for this year's event was played last December and very much enjoyed. Note the pink and yellow velcro tags

HOCKEY - Saturday 24th March 2012



1st XI ORs

First XI Back Row: Louis Mernagh (school GK), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Richard Collins (2001-08), Rory Clark (2002-09), Toby Harris (2005-07), Ben Crane (2000-07), Tom Wise (2005-07), Tom Geerah (2005-10), James Brittain (2001-10) Alex Brealy (1980-87, staff 1994-)

Front Row: Ed Thomason (2005-10), Ian Thompson (1988-95) with Mia, Steve Brown (2004-09)



2nd XI ORs

Back Row: Charles Hutton-Potts (1976-83), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), John Henniker-Gotley (1973-78), Adam Phelps (1980-82), Andrew Payne (1979-84), Duncan White (1976-81), James Hutton-Potts (1977-84)

Front Row: Phil Patterson-Fox (1979-84), Ian Thompson (1988-95), Miles Metcaffe (School GK), Alex Paton (1977-84)

After an uncertain response from the ORs about playing hockey this year we feared we would have to cancel, but with a week to go, we had an influx of younger and more seasoned ORs, which allowed us to field two full teams.

It was another gloriously sunny day up at Rendcomb and the ORs were feeling confident after back to back victories in all matches for the last four years. Things started well with our 2nds beating the school 2-1. This OR side was made up largely of 1983 and 1984 leavers who managed, despite the fair length of time since they left Rendcomb, to maintain an impressive level of fitness. They are a force to be reckoned with and we look forward to seeing them back again next year.

Unfortunately the school brought out the big guns for the feature game and fielded a 1st team who played with patience and confidence, ultimately proving just too skilful for us to cope with and eventually winning 4-1.

I'm glad to say that we had a decent crowd of spectators, which made it all in all another lovely day up at the school.

Special thanks must go to Dominic Sharman for helping to organise the teams despite living remotely in Saudi Arabia and also Harley Phelps, who saved the day by organising an extra eight players with just a few days notice. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Many thanks, Pat Boydell.

Tag (flag) rugby



Lacrosse on 'up top'



LACROSSE - Saturday 24th March 2012



Rachel Barnes (2006-11), Ellie Mills (2008-11), Delia Rich (2001-11), Alana Carpenter (2002-2011), Sinead Brennan (2001-09), Natasha Heffron (2005-10), Abi Whittles (2004-09)

A small but committed band of OR lacrosse players braved the isolation of being up on top pitch, while everyone else was down at the astro, in order to take on the college team who have once again won the national small schools' championship.

The team pictured above, along with Yasmin Lester-Powell (2004-11), who first battled university bureaucracy and motorway traffic to get to the match, Ed Slark (2001-11) and Karen Coups (staff), played valiantly but the outcome was never in doubt and the ORs went down 1-5. However as many of the college team will be ORs next year, we are confidently expecting a victory in 2013.

Destination of 6A Leavers 2011

Lucy Barnett	Open university
Alexander Bishop	Geography, Portsmouth
Charlotte Clements	GAP
Ieuan Clements	Engineering geology and geotechnics, Portsmouth
Thomas Geerah	Animal behaviour and welfare, University of the West of England
Jian Hu	Not known
Yasmin Lester-Powell	Zoology, Royal Holloway
Wenqing Li	Business economics, Exeter
Kai Lai Lin	History, Bristol
Peiqing Liu	Biochemistry, Bristol
Thomas Margesson	Law, Bristol
Thomas Molloy	Mathematics with philosophy, Royal Holloway
Henry Probst	History of art, design and film, Kingston University 2012
Alistair Read	Biomedical science, Portsmouth
Sarah Tarleton	English, Leicester
Sivuan Wang	Early childhood studies, Warwick University
Caroline Whaley	Not known
Xiaozhu You	Mechanical engineering, Oxford Brookes
Haolei Yuan	Business studies with human resources management, University of the West of England
Jinmo Zhang	Accounting and finance, Durham University

Friends of Rendcomb College

Registered Charity No: 290373

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: Friends of Rendcomb provides scholarships or bursaries for boys and girls from local primary schools who would benefit from a Rendcomb education. A need may arise from parental illness or family breakdown.

This year our fundraising has raised over £7,000. The raffle last summer raised £2,071. Many thanks must go to those ORs and trustees who donated such excellent prizes and to all those who purchased tickets. Covenants brought in £2,500 and £2,200 was received via generous donations.

You can help 'The Friends' for free. In this newsletter is a flier explaining how you can contribute by going to www.easyfundraising.org.uk. You can shop online at your favourite stores and raise money at the same time. You pay exactly the same price as you would if you visited each retailers website directly. To remind you, keep the flier by your computer.

The Friends, with the help of the college, are in the process of producing a document to help our fundraising with ORs and charitable organisations. This will outline the history, aims and objectives of the charity.

Colin Burden

Present Trustees	Appointed
Richard Wills - Chairman, Governor Rendcomb College	2004
Colin Burden - Executive Trustee. Staff (1963-1997), former parent	2005
Jane Gunner – (née Watson) OR (1975-1977), former parent, hon. sec. OR Society, governor Rendcomb College	1994
Roland Martin - headmaster, Ex Officio	2011
Keith Winmill – OR (1972-79)	2009
Mark Naylor – Commercial Operations Manager, Rendcomb College	2009
Dr. Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan) – OR (1974-76), former parent	2010
Jessica Weston – OR (1998-2005), OR committee member	2010
Patrick Boydell – OR (1988-1995), OR vice-chairman	2010

