

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



May 2013

39th ISSUE

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 1st July 2012 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) 5 Hynam Road, Pershore, WR10 3EB Tel: 01386 554409 e-mail: chriswood99@btinternet.com
School representative:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Tommy Lait (1996-2003) Jessica Weston (1998-2005) Stephen Jones (1988-95) Dominic Sharman (1993-99) Claire Germaine (1990-93) Harley Phelps (2002-2009)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG 01296 582741 e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

**Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting
of the Old Rendcombian Society held on
1st July 2012 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College**

Present: Jane Gunner (1975 -77), Colin Burden (Staff: 1963-97), Peter Cockell (1943-52), Bill White (Staff: 1961-97), Chris Wood (1965-71, Staff: 1976-09), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Colin Hitchcock (1971-78), Phil Griffiths (1940-43), Michael Barnes (1961-1969).

The meeting was not quorate.

1. Apologies: Roland Martin (1982- 1989) Headmaster (2011-), Neil Lumby (1968-1973), Pat Boydell (1988-1995), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Fiona Burge (1988-1990), Julian Comrie (1946-1959, David Williams (1966- 1971), Michael Miles (1943-1950), Alex Brealy (1982-1987, Staff 1994-), Tony Rose (1965-1971).

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the President chaired the meeting.

The minutes of the 78th AGM held on Sunday 3rd July 2011 were signed as a correct record.

Matters arising out of the Minutes held on 3rd July 2011 There were no matters arising.

Honorary Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Chris Wood, circulated the accounts, which had been signed off by the Honorary Auditor, David Williams.

He drew the meeting's attention to the reduced deficit of £703.04. This was because the cost of the newsletter had fallen by £780.00.

It was explained that the savings had been made by a combination of lighter paper and bringing the cost of postage to below the 2nd class rate and a very competitive quote from the printer Neil Lumby had found. This was despite the fact that the 2nd class postage rate had gone up and the Society had only been able to source 100 stamps before the deadline.

He reported that while there were rarely any picture sales these days the Society had already broken even on the cost of the pictures and they had also saved the Society a lot of money over the years as presents to staff.

The cost of the photographic history book had been 80% covered by the College and while the Headmaster had retained 400 copies, he would be using them as gifts and promotional material, leaving the OR Society free to sell their half to ORs, parents, etc. The OR Society only needed to sell 98 to break even on its contribution and had already sold 89 so were nearly there.

Jane Gunner and Colin Burden on behalf of the Society congratulated Bill White and Chris Wood on the publication.

Chris explained that the committee would not be recommending a rise in subscription

this year This was because of the notice the College have to give parents, meaning last year's rise will only be appearing on their bill in September 2012. It also seemed inappropriate to be raising it further in the current climate.

The committee also recommended that the Travel Bursary should remain at £1000.00 for the forthcoming year in light of the deficit. It was hoped that once the Photographic History had broken even, sale proceeds could augment the Travel Bursary. It was also hoped that it would have a long shelf life, as there was unlikely to be a similar publication for many years to come.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Colin Burden and seconded by Michael Barnes and agreed unanimously.

The President thanked Chris Wood.

Nominations for Committee Members

Fiona Burge (née Reichwald) had decided to step down from the committee. The secretary had received a nomination for Harley Phelps (2002-2009) to join the committee. This had been proposed by Pat Boydell and seconded by Jess Weston and it was agreed unanimously. The Honorary Secretary declared her interest as Harley Phelps' aunt. The President thanked all those who had worked so hard for the committee and welcomed the fact that there had been a renewal of interest in the Society by younger members.

Travel Bursary

Jane Gunner reported that this year's travel bursary had been split three ways. Awards had been given to one existing pupil and two OR's:

Andrea Haas for teaching in Australia

Lucy Taylor for working in a clinic in Ghana

Ed Hutchison as a medical elective in Ho Chi Minh City.

There had been two other applications from A level students to go to Lords Meade School, Uganda but sadly the worsening situation in Uganda and the loss of key staff at the Lords Meade School had meant they could not in all conscience facilitate the trips.

Jane expressed her disappointment that some of the previous years' travel bursary beneficiaries had not yet supplied the committee with their reports, especially as they were only required to provide a side of A4 and a photo with some not replying to her reminder letters or e-mails. (All now received.)

Any other business

Colin Burden reported on the Friends of Rendcomb.

A new initiative to encourage donors had been set up and the first 100 would join the 1920s Club, a name based on the year the College was founded.

The Trustees were looking to be able to support pupils all the way through the College and this would fund two pupils at any one time. Colin thanked Pat Boydell in his absence for getting it off to a good start with five of his year group joining in. This would already allow for support to be given to someone for two years in the sixth form. The Friends of Rendcomb have just awarded a bursary of £1000.00/year for two years to allow a pupil to progress to the sixth form.

Jane Gunner reported that there was a delay in being able to put the Photographic History on Amazon because the British Library had not yet catalogued it.

Colin Hitchcock had suggested it could be paid through Paypal on the website. He and Chris Wood would explore it. Colin also reported that he had revamped the website and had so far earned £25.00 in advertising. There would however be no payment out until £ 65.00 had been reached. He was monitoring monthly hits and there were roughly 150 a month mostly looking for relations etc.

Bill White expressed the Society's thanks to the Headmaster and the

College. The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

80th Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 30th June 2013 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p m.

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 79th A.G.M. held on 1st July 2012
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 Secretary by 20th June 2013
6. Travel Bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports

Fixtures Sunday 30th June 2013 timetable:

10.30 a.m. Coffee in Clock Hall

11.15 a.m. **Cricket match**

12 noon Pay Bar

12.15p m. **AGM** in Room E1

1.0 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.

30 YEARS ON – Sunday 30th June 2013

Calling the leavers of 1983!!

Russ Copley and Charles Hutton Potts are arranging a reunion of 1983 leavers on OR day, 30th June 2013. All those interested please contact Russ on email: RCopley@greenborough.com

35 YEARS ON – Sunday 30th June 2013

Calling the leavers of 1978!!

A reunion of 1978 leavers is being arranged. Please contact Colin Hitchcock if you are planning to come.

Tag Rugby Tournament: Sunday 8th December 2013
(provisional) **Hockey:** Saturday 29th March 2014 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 29th June 2014 (provisional)

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

SPORTS CONTACTS

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

Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com

Hockey: Dominic Sharman, sharman_uk@yahoo.co.uk, Harley Phelps,

Girls' sports: Jess Weston, 07969 177437, jess_weston@hotmail.com

Cricket: Pat Boydell, patrickb@tindirect.com

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 2012 - Sunday, 9th December



Gordon Webb (past parent), John Tolputt (Headmaster: 1987-1999), Roland Martin (1982- 89; Headmaster: 2011-), James Smith (1990 -97), Charlie Webb (1990-97), Mrs Webb, Charlotte Cumberpatch (1998-2005), Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-), Louisa Bongiovanni (1997-99), Jill Day (Music Staff), Phil Webb (1992-99), Claire Germaine (1990-93), Laurie Wilcox (2001-2008), Tim Shaw (1990-97), Marion Brown (née Preen)(1991-93), Tim Morris, Aileen Graham, Paul Sumsion (1985-92), Patta Tolputt, Ralph Barnes (1991-98), Robin Baggs (Organist), Martin Graham (Staff: 1985 -), Julia Morris (Staff)

Once again and thanks to **David White** (Staff: 1989 -2004) and **Claire Germaine** (1990-93) the OR Advent service held at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 9th December 2012 was a great success with many ORs, staff and past parents both in the choir and in the congregation. The choir sang an ambitious program of pieces including *Zion at thy shining gates*, *O radiant dawn*, *Ave Maria*, *I sing of a maiden*, *O thou the central Orb*, *How shall I fitly meet thee*, which was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by all. The church looked wonderful lit by the Advent candles.

The Newsletter



The team: **Chris Wood** (1965-71, Staff: 1976-09), Val Baldwin, Pippa Lafford, **Colin Burden** (Staff: 1966-97), **Bill White** (Staff: 1961-1997),

Penny Wood (Staff: 1985-95), **Jane Gunner** (1975-77) behind the camera!

It was in the summer of 1982 when **Fraser Glennie** (1959-67) persuaded me to join the OR committee and become Honorary Secretary, I was just married and just 23 years old. I have been doing it ever since, clocking up 30 years last September. Those of us who have been on the Committee for decades, namely Bill, Chris, Neil and I have weathered its many changes of fortune and are delighted that at the moment there is so much enthusiasm and commitment from the younger members. The OR Society has not always been embraced by the school and indeed I recall times in my youth when the College looked on OR days with misgiving but that has all changed with ORs for sometime now being afforded a warm welcome whether it be on OR day or on individual visits. The College wishes to build on this relationship and to work even more closely with the Society in future.

There is however one feature of the Society, which as it has evolved has been its mainstay and that is the newsletter initiated by Bill White in 1974. Every year we think that there will not be enough material and every year we are surprised and delighted by the articles ORs send us. Please keep it up.

On the previous page is a photograph of the people along with **Richard Tudor** (1973-80) and **Amanda Brealy** who make it happen and though there is the occasional voice that asks why we don't send it out by e-mail, so far there has never been an appetite for it from the members; so many people like to keep the booklet as a memento. We think we have the best of both worlds thanks to **Colin Hitchcock** (1971-78) who makes them available on the website. As you can see we have a bit of a 'do' stuffing the roughly 1400 envelopes and I am very grateful to my secretaries, formerly Mary FitzGerald and now Val and Pippa for taking it all in good part.

Jane Gunner (née Watson,

1975-77) OR REUNION 1st July 2012



From the Headmaster

It has been a huge privilege to return to the School that taught me so many valuable lessons when I was a boy, as its eighth Headmaster. As you probably know, I was a scholar at Rendcomb and so feel that I have directly benefitted from the vision that Noel Wills had for this School. That vision has never been far from my thoughts in my first year and I have tried to focus the School's thoughts and decision-making on what will benefit the young people that we have in our School. 2012-3 was a busy year...

We enjoyed three significant plays: *Our Country's Good* for Upper School; *The Pirates of Penzance* for Lower School and a short play written and directed by two of our Fifth year boys. We have enjoyed a range of impressive concerts: GCSE performers; informal concerts; workshops from internationally renowned musicians; *Stars of the East*, focused on international students; a Leavers' concert and most impressive of all, *Zimbe*, a musical that brought together Junior and Senior choirs. A jazz band that was formed in September opened at The Cheltenham Jazz Festival's *Jazz it Up* event in May. The end of Michaelmas Carol Service brought much praise from those who attended.

Thirteen girls from the School were awarded County places in Lacrosse and three attained National recognition; three boys played County Rugby and two girls were selected for County hockey. The girls' first team won the Small Schools' National Lacrosse tournament for the second year in succession and a boys' touring XI won the Emirates Airline School 35 ARCH Trophy in Dubai. We have been well represented on the equestrian circuit and in cross country and fencing.

Juniors have had a successful year, too. Academic achievement continues to be high; a significant number of pupils from Juniors achieved scholarships in the 11+ entrance exams. Work is being done towards the 'Bristol Standard', a benchmark of Early Years high achievement. Three 'Houses' were introduced: Corinium, Griffin, Dunwoody. These are administrative rather than physical, and have proved to be very popular, further strengthening team ethic and healthy competition. Part of the legacy of London 2012 was the desire to widen sport to the youth of our society. Many of our families have risen to the challenge and have committed their children to experience new sports. In recognition of our support, and level of fundraising, 8 pupils were able to participate in the pre-Olympic parade on Sunday, 1st April in the Olympic Stadium, with a team of four competing in a relay race. The pupils were involved in a vibrant *Peter Pan* in the summer.

We have made several key appointments during the course of the year among our academic Staff. Three started in September (Dom Franks, Head of Music; Pam Crisp, Music; Sue Corkett, Mathematics) and seven joined us in September (Saskia O'Sullivan, Head of Science; Jonathan Torbitt, Director of ICT; Amy Smith, Head of Economics; Sarah Jones, English; Cheryl Hossle, SEN and Music; Jennifer Longbourne, Modern Foreign Languages and Jessica Quick, grand-daughter of former Headmaster Anthony Quick joining us for a year as a Graduate Assistant). We said farewell to Joy Gibson, Lindsey North and Hilary Hill at the end of the Summer term.

Rendcomb enjoyed a good year where recruitment is concerned. 70% of our fifth year stayed at Rendcomb and 84% of J6 pupils came up to the Seniors. I am encouraged that I am seeing families about places for 2013, 2014, 2015 and even 2016. Good editorial coverage in national (*Spectator*, *First Eleven*) and local media (BBC Radio Gloucestershire, *Cotswold Style*) and good relationships with key stakeholders (Gloucester Rugby, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Cheltenham Festivals) has helped. We rebranded in Michaelmas and this freshen-up has given us a new image in the marketplace.

A new website has been designed and launched. I have written a five- year *Strategic Intent* for the Seniors which has been synthesized into *The Onward Journey*, a version of the *Intent* for public consumption, which can be accessed on the School's new website.

It has been good to meet with a number of ORs from a range of vintages over the year and I hope that the School will work with the OR Society, run with such commitment, to engage with former pupils in a meaningful way. ORs are always very welcome to visit the School and support events, here.

CONGRATULATIONS

To: Richard Collins (2001-2008) 1st Class Hons., Chemistry, University of Oxford, St Edmund Hall.

Rachel Watson (2003-2009) 1st Class Hons., Geography, University of Exeter. She was also awarded the Met Office undergraduate BSc dissertation prize

2012. **Alexander Robert Purvis** (2000-2007) 1st Class Hons, Marketing, Portsmouth **Barbara Unger** (1997-99) PhD in Project Portfolio Governance, School of Economics and Management, Technische Universität Berlin

BIRTHS

To **Nick Webb** (1982-1986) and **Kriss Ewing** (1984-1986) a daughter Amelia Daisy, born 23 July 2011. Sister to Jake and Sam.

To **Chris** and Georgina **Scarth** (1991-98) a son Frederick Hedley on 21st January 2013

MARRIAGES

Chris Scarth (1991-98) to Georgina Hartley on 6th August 2011 at St Enodoc Church, Cornwall

Patrick Boydell (1988-95) to Hannah Field in August 2012



Back row : **Chris Jarrett** (1988-95), **Mark Wilks** (1990-95), **Alice Yardley** (née Depauw) (1993-95), **Hannah Boydell**, **Patrick Boydell** (1988-95), **Craig Marcham** (1989-96), **Dominic Sharman** (1993-99), **Amber Ronovicz** (1993-99), **John Morgan** (1988-95), **Charles Yardley** (1988-93).
Front Row : **Stephen Jones** (1988-95), **Ian Thompson** (1988-95), **Ralph Aspin** (1997-2004), **Tommy Lait** (1996-2003)

Nicola Scarth (1994-2001) to Chris Smith on 23rd June 2012 at All Saints Church, Down Ampney.



Left to right **Jo Hindley** (1999 -2001), **Chris Smith** (1994-97), **Nicola Smith née Scarth** (1994-2001), **Olivia du Monceau** (1999-2001), **Kate Wilson** (1999-2001), **Alice Osborne** (1999-2001)



Sebastian Grey (1995-98), **Sam Maylott** (1991-98), **Jonathan Davis** (1991-98), **Ashley Taylor** (1991-98), **Chris Scarth** (1991- 98), **Tristan Sharman** (1993-97), **Phillip de Havilland Hall** (1991-98), **Harvey Davies** (1993-98), **Toby Abbott** (1991-98), **James Gibbs** (1991-98).

OBITUARIES

While every effort is made to ensure details are correct, we can only apologise when errors are made. **John (Jade) Sinclair** (1971-78) writes of his father: **James Daniel (Dane) Sinclair** (1920 –)(OR: 1934-37)

'The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.' Mark Twain.

In a recent edition of the O.R. Newsletter there appeared an obituary for my father who is in fact still with us though in somewhat frail condition.

It is true that the mighty men and women of the medical profession had written him off but in there somewhere, and possibly just to confound them, he determined to carry on awhile longer.

He has been known to say that there was little difference, just one letter in fact, between the PW he experienced at Rendcomb and his time as a POW during WWII, and that it was extremely good and valuable training for what lay ahead. I suspect that while confounding the doctors he is thinking that Old Rendcombians are made of sterner stuff!

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

Roger Horne (1947-56)

The Society is indebted to **Bryan Glastonbury** (1947-56) for sending in the following tribute along with extracts from the Carlisle Herald with all due acknowledgements to the it and the author Julian Whittle.

Roger was at Rendcomb from 1947 to 56, and then went on to get his degree at



Exeter College, Oxford. I think he was a school teacher all his working life. He entered Rendcomb as a scholarship boy, son of the Manse from one of the Slaughters (if my fallible memory is still holding out). He came across as serious, intellectual and tough - all accurate. But there was also a touch of the Pepys about him. As well as being an avid diarist, he was a bit of a lad when motivated. At Rendcomb it culminated in an affair with Matron, discovered by the music teacher. Given Roger was Head Prefect at the time it must have caused

DWLB a bit of a headache, but my recollection is that Roger got off with a 'boys will be boys, but must behave better' lecture, while poor Matron lost her job.

From the Carlisle Herald, written by Julian Whittle: Mr Horne was a former deputy leader of Carlisle City Council and head of sixth form at Trinity School, has died in July 2012 after a long battle with leukaemia. He was a Labour councillor for 1974-76 and 1979-99, serving as deputy to the late Lawrie Eilbeck.

He lost his seat in Currock to campaigner David King in the row over the Millennium Gateway scheme. Councillors paid tribute and stood for one minute's silence in his memory last night.

Council leader Joe Hendry said: "Roger Horne was a man of great integrity and intellectual honesty, committed to social justice, the values of the Labour Party and the young people of Carlisle. He will be greatly missed." Labour's Heather Bradley, who represents Currock just as Mr Horne did, said he played an active part in major developments in the 1980s and 1990s such as the Sands Centre and the Lanes shopping centre.

Conservative leader John Mallinson said: "He was a brave man. If he really believed in something, he wouldn't be turned from it."

Mr Horne was an economics and history teacher at Trinity, as well as head of sixth form. He became a school governor following his retirement.

Louis Webb BVM&S MRCVS (1957-1966)

The Society appreciate being able to use the following obituary written on behalf of the Carmarthen Veterinary Centre.



Louis Webb, suddenly but peacefully, passed away on March 24th 2009, aged 62.

He was a Director of Carmarthen Veterinary Centre (CVC) and previously Ark Vets; giving 37 years of dedication to the veterinary profession, particularly farm animals.

Some people leave their mark on the world by the way they live and the difference they make to those whose lives they touch.

Louis was a real inspiration, a brilliant vet, respected colleague and to many of us a true friend. He was there when you needed him, day or night, never made you feel you couldn't call on him. So many of us can recall a time when we thought "Don't worry, Louis is here!" Louis had a magical ability to give confidence and made you feel your opinion mattered to him. If he asked you to do something it made you feel proud "WOW he asked me!" We can't help but feel how lucky we all have been in having the privilege of knowing a man as great as Louis and the honour of having him as part of our lives. So on behalf of us all at CVC – Louis –DIOLCH YN FAWR IAWN. We all miss you deeply.

George Shefford Davis (1939-46) Mrs Edna Davis wrote to inform the Society of the death of her husband George from pneumonia on 18th July 2012. She mentioned his enjoyment of his years at the college, where he was a scholarship pupil. She also said that he took her there several times and often referred to the influence it had on him. George Davis maintained a long friendship with another OR, **Gordon Hale (1938-46)**.

Nicholas Dalton (1931-35) died in November 2000.

Mary Bliss died in May 2012. When Denis Lee-Browne (Headmaster 1932- 60) became ill, he was no longer able to instruct the bell-ringers. So ringing was suspended until 1962 when Anthony Quick (Headmaster 1961-71) asked Mary Bliss, who was Secretary of the Gloucestershire Campanological Society and later deputy head of Churchdown Comprehensive School, to start bell-ringing at Rendcomb again. Initially ringers had to contend with snapped ropes and broken stays (replaced by **Roy Elliott** (Staff 1959-63) and **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-1997) in the Manual) and bell ringing rapidly became a popular and highly proficient pastime. Mary came over on Friday evenings for the practice session and again to ring before the Sunday service. The ringers were very dedicated and sometimes went to join other bands for an afternoon's ringing in different Towers, transported by **Bill White** (Staff 1961-97), who, as the junior member of Staff in 1962, acted as co-ordinator! Mary Bliss retired in 1984 and a considerable number of Rendcombians were grateful to her for her patient instruction in the art of bell-ringing.

It would be interesting to know if any Old Rendcombians are still practising bell-ringers.

Michael Butler (1941-47) died in February 2013

MEMORIES



The Society is grateful to **Chris Handoll** (1955-58) for copies of the Table lists from the 1950s, the one above is believed to be from 1955.

From **Spencer Hall (1964-1969): Arts Block Secret Passage Way**

During the construction of the waste system for the new Arts Block a JCB inadvertently sliced through a cut & cover tunnel about two feet below the track leading to the church during the early part of the summer term in 1967.

The tunnel was of great interest to the 1966-7 third year who concluded it probably led to a secret underground complex so bided their time to wait for a suitable moment to explore. Their aspirations were quickly dashed the next morning when Mr Quick announced during morning assembly the tunnel was strictly out of bounds and any student found down the structure would face disciplinary proceedings. Ummm.....we'll see about that.

After a couple of days the novelty of the discovery wore off so it assumed a less prominent role. This presented an excellent opportunity to conduct an archaeological survey; so the self appointed third year task force set out to try and determine the purpose of the tunnel. Armed only with my parents' 35mm Agfa camera the six strong team dropped through the hole to ascertain where the tunnel might lead. I admit to being a little concerned initially about the integrity of the tunnel but discovered it was well built with dry Cotswold stone walling of around three feet high capped with solid stone lintel slabs - there was no smell of waste or damp. After a gentle run downhill run of about 80 yards due west the earth floor rose to meet the roof for no apparent reason - there were no access points off the main



tunnel. As we lacked the tools to undertake further excavation we concluded a "Great Escape" soil dispersal system was more trouble than it was worth deciding to call it a day and return to the warm spring sunshine.

As I approached the exit I heard familiar voices. It was Mr Quick discussing the likely origins of the tunnel with a fellow member of staff! The only sensible course of action was to immediately abandon our exit and wait till it was safe to proceed. We must have sat in the tunnel for a good 10 minutes while the powers that be droned on expressing their views about the origin of the tunnel based solely on

the evidence of the gashed hole made by the JCB.

Eventually the authorities' conversation fizzled out allowing the intrepid Time Team explorers to return to base and present themselves for the evening roll call.

So what was the purpose of the tunnel? Any suggestion is purely guesswork for there was no obvious answer. Had the JCB been 10 feet closer to the Asphalt it would

probably have missed it altogether for the other end was just a vertical wall. So why would anyone go to the trouble of constructing a sealed tunnel from nowhere to nowhere?

I suspect the tunnel was an abandoned Jewish bolt hole undertaken by the original builders of Rendcomb as a security measure. There doesn't appear to be any way of reaching the tunnel from the main building unless there was a secret access point from the Jungle, which is unlikely, and I'm not aware of any trap doors in what was once the fourth form common room. Maybe it was designed as a way of escaping future Latin lessons? Of course if anyone reading this has different ideas....or can identify any of those in the picture, please let us know (**Ed**). So far possibly: in front **David Gray** (1966-70), 4th back **Oliver Brown** (1966-69).

Bill White responds: I believe Mr James had a theory that there was a 16th Century house somewhere near the present Headmaster's House and this was an escape route for Catholic priests after the Reformation.

From **Chris Handoll** (1950-58):

Sorting through a number of photographs and other memorabilia of Rendcomb days, which have recently come into my possession, has prompted me to make a modest contribution to this Newsletter. I was one of three pupils from Downend Junior School (subsequently referred to as the 'Dead End Kids') who obtained Foundation Scholarships in 1950. Mine was somewhat fortuitous in that I took the place of another boy at the Downend school who opted to go to Clifton College instead. His loss was my gain! Life at Rendcomb in the early post-war years has been the subject of several recent Newsletter articles, notably the memoirs of **Desmond Painter** (1943-52), and I'm not going to add to this fund of information. However, reading it has brought back vivid memories of my own time there. It has also made me regret not having kept more in touch with my schoolfellows - I suspect that it might be a common product of advancing age, this yearning to know what former friends and colleagues have made of their lives! Fortunately I haven't been entirely in the wilderness, having met up with several contemporaneous ORs in recent years, namely fellow 'Dead End Kid' David Brown, classmates David Hart and Richard Taylor, and friend Paul Heppleston.

As to my own fortunes, after leaving Rendcomb in 1958 I studied Botany at University College London, where **Robert Lawson** (1948-57) was a fellow student and hockey teammate. Subsequently I pursued botanical research at Swansea and Bradford Universities before embarking on a 35 year career in forensic science, largely in the UK but including a 2 year attachment to the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police as their forensic science adviser. On the family front, I have six children and eight grandchildren. Three of my children are triplets, born in 1978, and I often wonder whether multiple births have occurred in the families of any other ORs. My wife and I currently have a 4 acre smallholding in North Carmarthenshire, where the only requirement for visitors is that they bring wellington boots with them!

One of the downsides of receiving the annual Newsletter is reading the Obituary column, and I have been particularly sad in recent years to hear of the passing of two of my contemporaries – **Alasdair Wallace** (1949- 55) and **Graham Herbert** (1949-57). Alasdair was three forms ahead of me, but he and his friend **Douglas Barbour** (1948- 53) commanded much respect and made a lasting impression on me. Graham was in the form above mine; I remember him quite simply as a very nice person, and was most distressed to hear that the latter years of his life were so difficult both for Graham himself and his wife Pamela. On the bright side there are happy outcomes as well, and one of them for me has been renewing contact with my art master from the early 1950s, **Joe Smedley** (Staff 1950s), who was reported in the 2012 Newsletter as having published a book of poetry. Joe has evidently established himself a formidable reputation as an artist and poet in the East Midlands. Under his tutorship I managed to pass GCE 'O' level art, and to produce artwork for the annual Christmas Party table lists, several of which are still in existence and are destined for the Rendcomb Archives. I also remember him for contributing to the moth collections that my friend **John Alder** (1950 -58) and I were establishing. Joe had a room in the Old Rectory, and any moth that came to his lighted window would be caught and delivered to one of us the next morning. I have retained my interest in moths to this day, and regularly trap them at home – not to kill them, I hasten to add, but to identify them and contribute to the county records.



Sunday afternoon concert 1958.

The musicians are (left to right):

Roger Stebbing (guitar) (1952-59);

Robert Comley (violin)(1951-59);

John Alder (guitar) (1950-58);

David Griffiths (flute) (1953-58);

Chris Handoll (1951-58)

(bassoon). The 'concert' was probably in a small ground-floor classroom, I think it was called the 'Quiet Room'!!



Dormitory Conference Standing: **Robert Comley** (1951-59);
Richard Taylor (1952-58); **Giles Auden** (1949-58)
 Sitting/lying: **Chris Handoll** (1951-58) ; **Graham**
Herbert (1949-57); **John Alder** (1950-1958)



Form V: Back row: **Alec Richards** (1949-57); **Ronald Pilkington** (1951-57); **David Paine** (1952-57); **Giles Auden** (part hidden) (1949-58); **David Hart** (1950-56); **Stephen Merrett** (1952-58); **John Gooding** (1951-58); **David Brown** (1950-58).
 Front row: **Roger White** (1950-57); **John Beard** (1950-58); **Michael Forster** (1950-58); **John Alder** (1950-58) Out of shot: **Chris Handoll** (photographer)



Washing-up duty

The washers-up are (left to right): **John Beard** (1950-58);
Robert Cockrell (1952-60); **David Brown** (1950-58);
Simon Hicks (1952-61); **Hugh Gough** (1955-62)



Prefects at Work

The prefects are: **Stephen Merrett** (1952-58); **David Brown**
(1950-58); **Ian Campbell** (1953-58); **Michael Forster** (senior
prefect).(1950-58) Boy with wheelbarrow unknown

REFLECTIONS

From **Mike Miles** (1943-50):

On reading both the 2011 and 2012 Newsletters I became uncomfortably aware of the number of my school contemporaries appearing in the obituaries. I particularly remember **Denis Montgomery** (1936-44) although our paths crossed for only one year. He was the goalkeeper in the soccer 1st XI and a hero to all the first and second formers of the time. We had something in common in that we were both Foundation Scholars, played Rugby (although Rendcomb was then a soccer school) and spent part of our careers in Rhodesia.

I also found **Desmond Painter's** (1943-52) extracts from his memoirs very nostalgic. He and I were exact contemporaries both finishing school as sixth form humanists under the jurisdiction of the same staff members. We also met up in the Army during our National Service and I also had the pleasure of lunching him at the Hong Kong Club in the late 1960's when he was passing through on a schoolmasters' mission to China.

Desmond's comments on the staff of the time were all very accurate and I have distinct memories of Robin Wilson falling asleep whilst supervising evening "prep" and John (Arky) Knowles's accuracy when throwing bits of chalk at his somewhat unruly class members. Rupert Thackray, the Latin master, also supervised athletics and introduced me to throwing the Javelin. He was also keen on us running in the Lodges Race to which Desmond refers. I did enter twice and remain proud of winning the junior race and finishing second to **David de Peyer** (1947-53) in the senior event when in the 6th form.

Desmond also refers to the legendary **Denis Lee-Browne** who was a larger than life character. He had two motor cars, a vintage 3 litre Bentley and a three wheeler Morgan. In my second year I broke my arm in an acrobatic adventure in the then Music room and DWLB kindly drove me to Gloucester Royal Infirmary in the Morgan (I would have much preferred the Bentley!)

Finally I would also like to pay tribute to **John** and **Kathleen James** who nursed me through Higher School Certificate with Distinctions in History and English for which I have always been grateful.

COINCIDENCES

Ruth Hughes, who has been acting as a conduit for the Society's correspondence with **Joe Smedley**, recently read the late **Douglas Payne's** (1940-48) memoirs of his time at Rendcomb during the war; coincidentally she received a newsletter from the Cirencester Old Grammarians promoting Malcolm Whitaker's book on his experiences as a child on a farm in Syde. Ruth's call to the editor elicited the information that he recalled playing soccer at Rendcomb during the 1950s on a sloping pitch and that sausages and mash were served after the match, a tradition, which survives today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Joy Gibson (staff 1995-2012) spoke at the reunion:

Thank you Jane for your kind words and to the Old Rendcombian Society for the tablemats.

Sixteen years is a long time and when I first started teaching at Rendcomb I was about a stone lighter and had mousy brown hair! Also starting in his 1st year was a certain **Sam Gunner** (1996-2003) and as I leave his cousin **Holly** also leaves school. When I first arrived at Rendcomb there were such phenomena as 'changed afternoons' and early evening lessons with sixth form and sitting in the Chemistry teaching room, on a dark gloomy winter day could be a bit grim.

Chris Wood and Margaret Coombs made me most welcome and I considered how lucky the students were to have the equipment for their Chemistry Practicals laid out on the bench ready for them to use. Morning break was taken in the prep room with plenty of chitchat and usually a visit from Derek, Margaret's husband.

As many of you know, Margaret died very suddenly without the opportunity to enjoy any years of retirement and this is a great shame. I wish Derek well for the future.

I have many happy memories of those early days such as when Chris and I did not have a technician for two weeks so we taught every year group the topic of Acids – in those days the curriculum was less rigid and the 5th Form were not always sitting science exams!

I only worked part time, which put extra stress onto Chris. Sometimes I just had to leave work at the end of the teaching day despite what else was happening, he always stood in for me without a grumble. Before coming to Rendcomb I had taught at five schools but this was the first one where my boss was not only in utter command of his subject but worked unbelievably hard. For thirteen years my working life was usually relatively stress free thanks to Chris. So can I say a big Thank You to you Chris for making thirteen years of my working life so straightforward?

Chris please don't look in the Chemistry 1 lab, it is a mess and I have only a week to get tidy!!

After sixteen years, the last three with a full teaching commitment and extra responsibilities it is time to go. Young people should be taught by teachers more on their wavelength who after teaching all week do not feel completely worn out, but I will miss the place. No more nice cooked lunches or tea and cakes, no more Cookery Activity, no more 6th Form organic practicals, no more handing out Periodic Tables – I am sure everyone who was educated at Rendcomb has been given at least a dozen Periodic Tables, where did they all go!!!

Fortunately I don't think that I will be missed which is just as it should be. My successor Saskia O'Sullivan who is currently Head of Chemistry at Ribston Hall Grammar School comes with excellent academic qualifications and I am sure that she will continue the long tradition of dedicated Heads of Chemistry at Rendcomb. I realise how lucky I have been to have been able to work mostly part time, still have an enjoyable and fulfilling Teaching career and retire at 60. Life is supposed to get

better for each generation but sadly this does not appear to be happening. I do promise to pay my taxes and help out the needy next generation by not spending our children's inheritance on Round the World Cruises! I wish you all well for the future and hope you will keep in touch. I will try to come to the Carol Service, which shows Rendcomb at its best as a small friendly community just slightly away from the rough and tumble of real life.

Maureen Allen wrote to Jane saying what a lovely surprise it was to receive the set of place mats on her retirement from the College. She sent her thanks to the Old Rendcombian Society

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS

Chris Terrill (Staff 1978-83) produced and directed the film of the extraordinary theatrical production of *The Two Worlds of Charlie F.* for the BBC's *Imagine* series. Professional front line soldiers, all of whom have sustained injury ranging from amputation to post traumatic stress, join forces with a professional theatre company to help write, rehearse and perform a play based on their experiences of war in the killing fields of Afghanistan. Series Editor from Newcastle was Alan Ye University to b. in July 2012 with a **Jonathan Fish** (2006-08) graduate

Hons in Business Management.

Kriss Ewing (1984- 86) writes: We are living on a farm in Herefordshire where Nick breeds and produces event horses and I work as a solicitor for West Mercia Police. Three happy (mostly) healthy (mostly) children (Nick won't let me have any more), two dogs and thirty horses keep us pretty busy.

Charlie Hussey (1974-76) was the originator and founder of Berkofest 2012, which was set in the stunning eight acre location of Berkhamsted Sports Club, Berkofest provided an array of entertainment for all, with four stages encompassing high profile acts on main stage, a talented acoustic stage set up, an original comedy show, and an improvised 'Open Mic ' stage performance, along with a whole host of other attractions! Charlie writes: What I can add is that I am very proud of the fact that Berkofest not only gave the estimated audience of 3,500 a fantastical and magical day but also after costs raised approximately £15,000 for local community causes including the town's hospice and youth community centre. And this insane project, which had no prior funding, or history was manned completely by volunteers; to give you an idea of the scale the budget was £75,000.

Information about Berkofest 2013 is available on <http://www.berkofest.com/>



Berkofest
Saturday 15th September 2012

Dave Brennan (1970-77) is living in Ipswich, designing broadband networks for BT. He is married to a lawyer and has two teenage sons.

Chris Pulford (1970-77) reports that he loves living in Switzerland and that the website for his school is www.gstaadschool.ch

Claire Abel (née Richard) (1983- 85) has two lovely dressage horses and is competing at quite a high level in the dressage world.

Sam Gunner (1996-2003) and his girl friend, Jess, have spent the last 6 months cycling around South East Asia. Their journey included Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos , Vietnam and India. An expedition for which 4 years cycling in London has amply prepared them. Their blog is www.cyclemybicycle.com.

Holly Phelps (2000-2012) has spent the winter travelling in Thailand and Australasia meeting up with her fellow classmates **Andrea Haas** (2005-20012), **Chris Couch** (2005-12) and **Dan Geerah** (2007- 12). She is currently doing an internship as assistant to the director at Giffords Circus.

Cdr Christopher Hodkinson (1975-82) was promoted to Captain and to Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (Land, Littoral Manoeuvre) within Navy Command Headquarters with effect from September 2012.

Adam Binder (1982-87) has crafted a 12 foot bronze sculpture (weighing 700kg) of a polar bear, which has been mounted in the centre of Sloane Square in London. It was there to raise awareness of a campaign to stop the international trade in endangered species. Adam's website is adambindereditions.com

Greg Dorey (1967-73) wrote to Bill White back in July about his new posting as ambassador to Ethiopia and non-resident Ambassador to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and UN Economic Commission for Africa. There is an AU summit every 6 months, with the end-January one being in Addis Ababa and the end-June one in a volunteer country. So he had one almost as soon as he arrived and then because of the death of the President of Malawi and other complications, the end-June was moved back to Addis too. Hence a very busy first year.

Luke Gunner (1998-2005) has just become Volunteer and Garden Team Lead at Ventnor Botanical Gardens on the Isle of Wight. Website: www.botanic.co.uk

David Tyler (1965 -1970) has become chairman of Hammerson. He is also Chairman of Sainsbury's and a non-executive director of Burberry.



Adam Phelps (1982-84), **Rory Clark** (2002-09), **Harley Phelps** (2002-2009) at the Schools National Clay Pigeon shooting competition where they won the Old Pupils' section with Harley winning High Gun and top scorer.

ORS AND THE OLYMPICS

Olivia du Monceau (1999-2001) was one of the artists who decorated a number of Olympic mascots.



'Flower Seller' (left) in Covent Garden, **'Spotlight'** (below left) in Wyndhams Arcade, Leicester Sq, **'Trafalgar'** (below right) in Trafalgar Sq **'Midsummer Night's Dream'** in Regents Park.

The mascots, Wenlock and Mandeville are approximately 2 metres high and are designed to capture the essence of their surroundings. **Olivia** is a production designer for Theatre sets and costume, based in Liverpool. She is also a designer in residence at Manchester Metropolitan University. After the Olympics the mascots were put up for sale and the net proceeds went the Mayor's fund for London, a charity which aims to inspire and improve the life chances of London's most disadvantaged children.



DRIVING THE OLYMPICS

Bobby Morgan (Deputy Headmaster: 1990-2007) writes: I volunteered to be a Gamesmaker back in 2010 and when the application process finally unwound in early 2012 I found myself selected as a driver for the period of the Olympics. I would be driving officials and athletes to wherever they might wish to go in London in BMW cars – BMW having backed the Games as one of the major sponsors. Our training was limited to two days in which to learn routes, Olympic venues, handling the cars in London traffic, radio and sat nav operation, security procedures and dealing with the clients – so it was pretty hectic and intimidating. It helped if you had substantial experience of driving in London traffic – but remarkably many of the volunteers came from long distances away and found accommodation at their own expense in London or commuted in each day.

Our fleet of cars was based in Park Lane – the car park on the Hyde Park side as you drive towards Marble Arch. It is an enormous underground area with rather nasty car and pedestrian access through damp tunnels – in the week before the games they actually flooded in a downpour. Once in this subterranean world there were literally hundreds of BMWs lined up for our use – parked in rows with thick concrete pillars in between, typical of such car parks built in the 1960s. In fact during the games after just 3 days our parking incompetence had resulted in mattresses being tied round each of the pillars. This place, together with the nearby Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square, was to be our base for nearly four weeks. I would be doing seventeen shifts, ending the week after the week after the games finished. Each shift would run for ten hours and might start at six in the morning or any time after that right through to midnight.

My first shift actually started on Sunday 15th July – that is way before the opening ceremony on 27th July but we were needed to collect IOC members from Heathrow and deliver them to the Park Lane Hilton Hotel, which was rapidly being turned into a fortress – crash barriers outside, thorough vehicle searches and intense screening for anyone who wanted to enter the hotel – everyone had to have suitable accreditation. Even at this stage it was clear that security was a major concern. By the time the games started we were able to use the Olympic lanes. These were denoted by massive signing on the major routes that the games would use and the system was sufficiently flexible that when things were quiet the lanes could still be used by the public. But by the day of the Opening Ceremony with more and more arrivals through Heathrow the whole route into Central London via the M4, the Hammersmith Flyover and the A4 along the Gloucester Road into Knightsbridge and so on to Hyde Park Comer – all the way had one lane reserved just for Olympic transport. In the middle of rush hour a journey from Heathrow which could have taken you 90 minutes or more was reduced to just over 20 minutes; you just drove straight through – even the traffic lights were turned in your favour, while you slid down in your driving seat and tried to escape the

glares of drivers stuck absolutely stationary in the inside lane. Occasionally frustration boiled over – vehicles swung out into our lane and risked what allegedly would be a heavy fine if they were caught on the cameras. On a very few occasions we got abuse shouted at us – irate taxi drivers whose passengers they thought we were pinching – or delivery vans on a tight schedule held up by us.

As the games unfolded our job became an on-demand service to take officials to any of the Olympic venues, usually from their hotels in the Park Lane area. Most of the passengers spoke good English and were really appreciative of all aspects of the Games. My favourite was the High Commissioner and IOC member for Barbados, whose son and granddaughters I had to collect from Gatwick. He despite a remarkably laid-back appearance was knowledgeable about everything to do with the games, across all sports including my own, hockey. He rated Barcelona and Sydney as the best games he had attended; I said, without too much confidence at that stage, that he would find London better. He had promised me that his son and granddaughters wouldn't have much luggage but of course as it turned out when they staggered out of the Arrivals Hall at Gatwick they had stacks of it overflowing from a trolley. There was no way it would all go in the rather small boot of the BMW so son and granddaughters, wedged in the back seat, had the luggage all piled on top of them, as if a nine hour flight overnight from Barbados hadn't been enough to shatter them. Grandpa sat comfortably in the front passenger seat and thought it was all very funny; we passed the journey back to Park Lane most pleasantly while in the back the exhausted threesome tried to get some sleep under a mountain of bags.

Other memories of the first week included loading up a Greek family to go to Heathrow – I think they were leaving early because of the situation back home – but there was a six year old daughter who screamed and screamed in the road outside the Hilton until she was allowed by indulgent parents to sit in her chosen seat in the car. Also there was the Japanese athlete – I didn't find out her name – who appeared stranded at midnight outside the Intercontinental Hotel – perhaps having lost the rest of her team. She spoke no English except for two words – Olympic Village – so that's where I took her. To get into the Athletes' Village itself involved going through the tightest security at all times of the day or night. Soldiers here searched the car, the boot, the engine compartment, the door pockets and even the door seals. You and your passengers had to get out of the car to be searched airport style before you were finally allowed through into the athlete's reception area.

However, at the Earl's Court Arena, where the volleyball took place, the security arrangements were different. There were two points to drive through, one in a car park some distance from the Arena and the second immediately outside. The search by the soldiers at both points was very thorough but there seemed to be a flaw; if you were directed to the first point and searched you were then given a pass to get you through the second without further search but once waved on from the first point you

had to travel round the block for 200yds on public roads during which time you were not observed and any kind of terrorist device could have been handed to you before reaching the second point. From Earl's Court I collected two ladies who turned out to be hockey umpires on their day off, one from Russia and one from Japan. The Russian spoke perfect English and she informed me that she and her friend had been there to watch the volleyball, actually between Russia and Japan; Russia won but they were still good friends. They now wanted to get to Wimbledon to see the Andy Murray semi-final against Novak Djokovic. Traffic around Wimbledon was swarming; it was my first visit back there since the practice day and since then a one-way system had been set up to control the traffic, which I managed to drive round the wrong way much to the incredulity of the security people. Still my umpires got to see their tennis and later on of course I found out that Murray had won and was in the final.

By the second week of the games London was buzzing and we were really busy; the Olympic routes were at full stretch but the traffic did keep flowing at most times of the day, probably because popular events were so spread out and the starting times staggered. One evening I waited outside the entrance to Horseguards Parade at nearly midnight to pick up IOC members and take them back to the Park Lane Hilton – actually they probably could have walked. Why were they there? – of course to see perhaps the most popular non mainstream sport at the games – beach volleyball. There were enormous crowds in the temporary stands and the noise bursting out of the stadium was phenomenal. So much so that the resident of Number 11 Downing Street, who was putting in late nights trying to sort out Britain's financial mess, was alleged to have complained to the Games organisers that he couldn't do his sums because of all the crowd noise. I don't think he got much sympathy.

On the final Sunday I saw some of the Men's Marathon and later I was in Hyde Park for a television relay of part of the Closing Ceremony from the Olympic Stadium. And so the Games ended – but we still had plenty of driving to do. On the Monday I had to drive out to the Olympic Village with an official and on arrival was promptly summoned round the corner to the athletes' departure zone. All the signs were that the Games were over – piles of baggage waiting to be loaded onto team buses; I was asked to report to one bus where the driver was refusing to take on any more luggage; unfortunately this team, Korean I think, had loaded all the small items first and left four enormous cases, probably weightlifters equipment, on the pavement. They were hoping I would be of some use to take off some of the athletes so that more luggage could be put inside the bus. The driver, confirming in my mind that everything was now back to normal and the extraordinary goodwill of the games was no more, refused to let them put luggage inside and probably uttered the immortal words "It's more than my job's worth to take that lot." I was summoned away, leaving a forlorn group of athletes who were now going to miss their flight home.

I had a last day on the Wednesday after the Games finished making several trips out to Heathrow to drop off IOC members, all of them saying how wonderful the games had been. Then it was back to Park Lane, handing in the car and saying goodbye. And that was it – back home to Northleach, feeling a bit flat. The BMW cars were all being relocated somewhere in Kent before being shipped back to Germany and refurbished after we had allegedly given them such punishment. Far fewer of them were going to be required for the Paralympics and any way I wasn't going to be driving then.

However there was to be a final unexpected hurrah. You will remember that on the Monday, the day after the Paralympics closing ceremony, there was to be a parade of all our athletes along a route from the Mansion House in the City all the way to Buckingham Palace; all 70,000 Gamesmakers had been invited to enter a ballot to get a place in a special enclosure on the Mall to watch the parade. Unfortunately with only 10,000 places available most of us were going to be disappointed and so it proved for me. Nevertheless on the day before the parade we received an E mail urging us to attend anyway, in our uniforms, and to find places to watch along the rest of the route. So I made a last minute decision to go, got up to London in my uniform, got out at St Paul's Tube Station at about midday and walked down to Ludgate Circus with the road already closed and enormous crowds gathering, most patiently sitting on the pavement. I found a space simply because of the uniform – “Ooh a gamesmaker, do come and sit here!” – and there were many of us around. With over an hour still to go to the parade, one of our number, I am sure she must have been a primary school headmistress, decided that the crowd needed entertaining – after all this is what Gamesmakers had been doing for the past eight weeks. So she called out all the Gamesmakers in uniform and we got the crowd doing Mexican waves up and down Ludgate Hill and chanting Team GB, just possibly a little embarrassing for some of us but not for those Gamesmakers who had been whipping up enthusiasm at the Olympic Park.

At last the parade came by with all of the faces of the games – most sports came as a team on their individual float, some shared and there were 21 floats in all. The crowd went berserk – after all we had warmed them up – and the applause and cheering was sustained right through to Float no 21. After no 21 came some police horses – and then coming down Ludgate Hill were about 50 Gamesmakers who had spontaneously joined in – and as they passed, virtually every Gamesmaker in uniform - including me

– emerged from the crowd till we numbered hundreds. We were greeted by huge cheering and waving as we set off walking along Fleet Street. The crowds filled the entire pavement and spilled over into the road; there were people waving from the tops of buildings, people hanging out of office windows, one man standing on top of the clock outside one of the old Fleet Street newspaper offices. Few of us had realised just how popular the Gamesmakers had become. The noise was deafening – the cheering bouncing back and forwards off the buildings as we passed Aldwich and

into the Strand. Unfortunately, eventually the game was up – the police did not know how to cope if we got as far as the densely packed crowds in Trafalgar Square. A very apologetic inspector asked if we could call it a day and we dispersed quietly after one of the most memorable afternoons I have ever experienced. I think at that point we thought, if we had not already done so, that in Sebastian Coe's words "We had done it right".

Simon Wormleighton (1970-78) was quoted in the Sunday Times of 21 Oct 2012, discussing the sporting success of Plymouth College, where he is headmaster, from where 4 students competed in the Olympics, including Tom Daly, the diver and Ruta Meilūtyte, the fifteen year old Lithuanian who won gold in the 100 metres breaststroke. He stressed the importance of academic studies for all the athletes.

Rachel Watson (2003-2009) writes:



I have always loved sport and have represented both Exeter and Durham Universities at Hockey, so when the chance to become a Gamesmaker volunteer at the London Olympics was announced, I jumped at the chance.

The process started quite a few years ago and after the initial application, eventually in December 2011 I was called to Canary Warf, London to undergo a challenging interview. After selection in early 2012, training, the allocation of roles and collection of the uniform took place. I had to attend various sessions at Wembley and at the Olympic Park venue itself to familiarise the procedures. When I was informed that I would be linked with security at the Athletes Village I was delighted.

I had strict guidelines to follow as all competitors, coaches and dignitaries had to pass through the airport type security and it was my job to "Meet and Greet" together with putting all sports equipment, including javelins, and the odd gold medal through the scanner! I had to work for 10 shifts and

although it was tough having a 7.00am start on the other side of London, it was the most amazing experience. I was also lucky to be invited to attend the final technical dress rehearsal for the Opening Ceremony on the Wednesday before the big event. Everything was to be kept secret from the general public, with the ongoing reminder to save the surprise.



Through my job I met so many athletes including Zara Philips, Andy Murray, Mo Farrah, Jess Ennis and Tom Daley. However the highlight was meeting and having a photo with the one and only Usain Bolt!

The atmosphere in the Athletes Village was amazing, and I could stroll around the Village with other volunteers and even watch ceremonies as countries were welcomed to the games. I was also lucky to attend various athletics, hockey and volleyball events, which made the whole experience even more special.

My time as an Olympic Volunteer was a once in a lifetime experience and I am so glad I had the opportunity to be part of such a magical two weeks. It is something I will remember forever.

Sam Gunner (1996 -2003) has been working for the Transport for London Electronic Development Team for 4 years, however last summer was an especially busy one, as it was for the vast majority of TfL's employees.

During both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as two weeks before and after, Sam was part of the TfL Surface Transport system support team, working in shifts to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week skilled maintenance for a number of the city's most important transport systems. These included the computers that provide synchronised traffic control, and the citywide CCTV system that allows operators to monitor congestion and respond to incidents. These, and other systems,

were clearly in continual use and their unfaltering operation was often crucial to the success of The Games.

Fortunately the systems are so well designed that The Games were as seamless and successful for TfL as they appeared to be on the surface. The few hiccups that there were were quickly rectified and so most of the late and weekend shifts could be spent catching up on the action in the Velodrome and Aquatic Centre!!

Debbie Purton née Harrison (1976-78) is doing the London 2 Brighton Challenge, which is a 100k walk, in aid of the Mo Farah Foundation raising funds to bring water and medicines to really deprived areas and particularly the orphanages in Somalia and E Africa. It starts on 25th May and ends 26th, as it takes around 24 hours to walk it. To sponsor her follow the link to www.justgiving.com/Deborah-Purton which will still accept donations until 23rd June, 4 weeks after the event.



Harley Phelps (2002-2009), **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), Joe Watson (Grandfather), **Holly Phelps** (2001-2012), **Jennifer Phelps** (née Watson 1978-80) on Founder's Day 2012

COLLEGE NEWS

For the second time in the College's history, the head girl 2011-2012 was the daughter of two ORs. Holly is the daughter of **Adam** (1980-1982) and **Jennifer** (née Watson, 1978-80) **Phelps**. Below is her Founder's Day speech:

'For me, Rendcomb hasn't just been a school; it has been a way of life. I am the tenth member of my family* to come through and the last of the current generation. When I joined J3, the Junior School was only just getting going; there were six people in my class, three of whom will be leaving at this end of this year. I have loved watching the Junior School grow alongside me. It was at this young age that my passion for Rendcomb started and long may it continue. The quality of the Junior School has been demonstrated today by Max** and Emily** who have been such a great double act. Perhaps we will see you in seven years' time addressing the whole School as Head Boy and Girl. Who knows? It seems an appropriate time to thank the Junior School staff for all that they did for me. Mrs. Haas helped me turn my dyslexia from a weakness to a strength. She helped me realise that with a lot of effort I could succeed academically. Just like most things, the more you put into something the more you will get out of it.

I would like to thank the senior school staff for all the time and effort they have put in, making my time at Rendcomb as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. I would especially like to congratulate Mr. Martin on a successful first year, and long may it continue.

So am I ready to leave after all this time? I think so, I feel Rendcomb has moulded me into the person I am today, ready to face the outside world. Rendcomb has given me the skills I need to survive and hopefully thrive. What happens if I just can't live without Rendcomb? I may just have to come back and return as a teacher! As did Mr. Wood, then Mr. Brealy, Mr. Thomason and even the Headmaster. But I may have to leave that to Jake (Head boy. **Ed.**), who I know will be a truly great teacher.

Rendcomb has definitely given me the opportunities to thrive, as it does with all its students. As you would expect, the School gives each pupil the skill to grow in learning and education.

However, I feel Rendcomb's uniqueness lies in the fact that it continues to teach and develop those personality traits in pupils that the Founder set out all those years ago. We Rendcombians are open and engage with our surroundings. We have a cultural enrichment programme, Godman cake sales, Friday night challenges, we play Quidditch, we go on trips, perform plays, music events, sports tours, tournaments and of course we have the staff to keep us on the straight and narrow. This diverse set of opportunities, and the fact that I could follow all of these opportunities and not have to choose between them, was perfect for me. Earlier I mentioned that I had dyslexia, and this meant that you would naturally find me on the stage or playing sport before ever getting me to read a book, praised for the talents I had, yet also supported in developing those that were less strong, including my reading. The plays and musicals at Rendcomb lit my passion for performing and

helped me become a more confident and open individual. The rush after a performance, for me, is about being high on life. This meant my enthusiasm for the next play, and the requirement to learn lines, was a way of helping me read while working towards doing something I loved. This idea that each pupil is treated as an individual is a crucial ingredient into making a Rendcombian. The sports teams at Rendcomb have helped me learn how I could keep my cool under pressure and how communication on and off the field was so important. My brother, now an Old Rendcombian, said to me recently, 'you won't play in another team that plays with the same passion and heart as you have at Rendcomb,' and unfortunately I think this will be true. I think that it must be down to the fact you live alongside your friends, so by the time you get on the field you are unified as a team, and don't play for yourself and individual glory, but for your team mates and the well-earned shared victory. We have had an incredibly lovely year group and I think we will continue to keep in contact – with OR year groups, supporting each other over the decades, coming together to celebrate good times, but more importantly to support each other through the bad. There is a unique support network that is the family of Rendcomb, past, present and future, including my parents and me. So my journey as a pupil is over, but my journey as an Old Rendcombian is only just beginning. To those of you lucky enough to still be a pupil, take all you can from the Rendcomb experience and when you get to Sixth Form, you will be able to help give something back. To conclude, I will leave you with the lyrics of a song: 'If you get the chance to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance, I hope you dance.' I know I will ... Thank you.

*** Joe Watson (1971-78), Jane Gunner (née Watson, 1975 -77), Jennifer Phelps (née Watson , 1978 -80), Adam Phelps (1980-82), Jennifer Lane-Birkenstock ((née Lane, 1982)), Sam Gunner (1996-2003), Luke Gunner (1998-2005), Mark Gunner (2001-2008), Harley Phelps (2002-2009), Holly Phelps (2000-2012) **Head boy and head girl of the Junior School.**

St Peter's Church, Rendcomb

This winter saw St Peter's Church under the threat of closure because of the dwindling number of village parishioners, thankfully this has been averted by the hard work and dedication of number of people, including **Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)** who has agreed to become one of the two church wardens along with Carol Bailey from the village.

The church of St Peter's was rebuilt at the beginning of the 16th century. It was rededicated in 1517, the very year in which Martin Luther published his '95 Theses', which ushered in the Protestant Reformation. It can be fairly claimed; therefore, that St Peter's was one of the last churches in the country, certainly the county, to be built in the late medieval style.

The patron of the new church was the Lord of the Manor of Rendcomb, a rich sheep farmer and clothier, Sir Edmund Tame, whose father rebuilt the magnificent parish

church at Fairford. There are many striking similarities of detail between the two churches, in particular the great oak screen spanning the whole breadth of the building, some fine medieval glass and the angel corbels. The church is entered through the great South porch with its carved Tudor roses on both sides of the outer doorway. The iron -studded door is the original one with keyplates bearing incisions of what some consider to be early Arabic numerals. The very fine 12th century Norman font depicts eleven of the Twelve Apostles, each identifiable by the tools of his trade. The twelfth space, for Judas Iscariot, is left blank. The font was previously in the chapel at Elmore Court, near Gloucester, the seat of the Guise family who owned Rendcomb for two centuries after the Reformation. When the chapel was demolished it was used as a garden ornament until the mid 19th century when the Rev. Joseph Pitt, rector of Rendcomb, recognized it for what it was and persuaded Sir John Guise to install it in St Peter's. The tower predates the church and was originally with the fine arch into the nave probably being made in the 16th century. The tower houses six bells, three of which are dated c1460 and were made by the same medieval bellfounder, John Daniel of London. The other three were cast in the 1840s. Much of the glass on the North side and that in the tracery windows on the South side is contemporary with the rebuilding of the church. One panel in the central window of the North wall features the initials ET, those of the patron Edmund Thame. Most of the rest of the glass in the church is Victorian, though there are some 17th century Flemish medallions in the two outer windows on the North wall. The most prominent feature, the oak screen would originally have supported a rood loft – the traces of the staircase to the loft can clearly be seen in the North wall behind the pulpit – but this was swept away by reforms later in the 16th century leaving only the screen beneath. Between the Lady Chapel and the Chancel the parclose screen incorporates the pomegranate symbol of Katherine of Aragon, King Henry VIII's queen at this time. In Victorian times the rood screen was skillfully renewed in parts with metal work and the whole painted dark brown, making the repairs difficult to distinguish. The Lady Chapel contains memorials to members of the two families who had such influence over the parish during the life of this church; the first to Dame Eleanor Berkeley, wife of Sir Richard Berkeley and the second to the Guise family. These tombs are separated from the chapel by a wrought iron gate of the most exquisite workmanship incorporating the Guise symbol of the chained swan. The church was completely redecorated in 1989 and as part of this work the chapel was restored to its former light and beauty by the removal of the Victorian organ in the southeast corner. It was replaced by an Allen organ, which produces the sound digitally.

The shield of the families associated with Rendcomb can be seen at roof level: Stafford, Tame, Berkeley, Guise.

With thanks to Jane Wilkinson (past parent) and the Parish Link magazine for the Benefice of Bagendon, Baunton, North Cerney, Rendcomb and Stratton for the use of this article.

OR Advent
service in St
Peter's on 9th
December 2012



Donkey
Procession
to St Peter's
on Palm
Sunday 24th
March 2013.
With thanks
to Butts
Farm for the
loan of the
donkey.



STAFF RETIREMENTS

Farewell to Mr and Mrs Hardy (Jim and Pearl)

Mark Naylor, commercial operations manager writes: It is with great sadness that on 28th March 2013 we have said farewell and best wishes to Jim and Pearl who as Catering General Assistants have worked tirelessly to support Rendcomb College throughout their years of service.

Jim joined Rendcomb in 1989 and in 1991 was joined by his wife Pearl, during their time they have seen three Headmasters, three Bursars, three Catering Managers, four different Contract Catering Companies, four Head Chefs and have helped to look after 1000s of Students and Staff always with a happy smile on their faces and a dedication and loyalty to the customers and their colleagues that will be impossible to replace. When the snow has come down or a member of the Catering Team has fallen ill a phone call to Jim and Pearl would always be met with a "we will be with you in a few minutes" and a trip from across the valley in Woodmancote would be underway to rescue the day and insure that the students and staff were well fed and catered for.

Jim and Pearl have over the last couple of years eased their way into retirement with a job share which has started to give them a taste of what is to come and we all wish them a long and happy retirement, they will be very much missed by the Colleagues they leave behind and the Rendcomb Family.



Pearl and Jim at the reception given for them in the Reading Room.



Hilary Hill (Staff: 2007-2012)



Hilary joined the Modern Languages Department in September 2007. She taught Spanish up to GCSE and made a valued contribution to developing the language in the school. Although she has retired from Rendcomb, she is continuing to teach French part time at the Royal Agricultural College, and is also doing some private tutoring. She is hoping to have more time to spend with her family and is also planning to sign up for some U3A courses in the not too distant future. We wish her all the best. **Rachel Fielding** (Staff: 1993-)

Mrs Maureen Allen

Maureen joined the College first in 1974 and left in 1980 to devote time to being a mother, Maureen then came back to Rendcomb in 1984 and has now had 28 years continuous service.

Maureen lives across the valley in Woodmancote so can almost see the College which has been such a large part of her life from her back door, her son Richard came as a young lad to help out in the kitchen then returned to become one of the Chefs gaining his qualifications and staying for 16 years before leaving for promotion with the Royal Agricultural College a real family affair.

Maureen has worked throughout the College and has most recently spent the last 12 years in The Old Rectory looking after the cleaning and the laundry requirements of our younger male students, a challenge at best to get the clothes clean after they have

been doing, what young men do, a game of football on the grass or playing tag in the wilderness.

Whenever the House parents have given her the last minute curved ball of “Oh did I tell you we have an extra 25 staying over tonight for Friday Night Challenge could you make up some beds?” Maureen has always risen to the challenge and fulfilled the request.

Maureen has always been a person who has gone the extra mile for the students and the College and now is to retire and spend more time at home and in the garden possibly having the odd discussion with her neighbour Mrs. Pat Poole who between them will have given 76 years of service to Rendcomb.

Mrs Margaret Sharp:

Margaret joined the College in 2003 and has been here for 10 years, she has a son Ben and daughter Emma who both work as part of the Domestic team in Stable Block and The Junior School respectively. Margaret joined Rendcomb from working for Sharps/Dolphin where working on Boxing Day for the Christmas Sales was a must so to have a break over this Bank Holiday was a new experience she has very much enjoyed.

Margaret has worked in Godman House looking after the young ladies' laundry and domestic needs, she has become adept at recognizing the owners of the young fashion conscious 11-13 year olds' clothes, always ensuring the right piece of vital attire be returned to the correct pigeon hole. When Margaret first arrived she held the responsibility of laundering all the Match Team Sports Kits through the year and was the only one in The College that knew all the small differences between an under 14A kit and an under 14B kit, thankfully that problem has been replaced by a standard sports attire, or we may have been in problems without her.

Margaret leaves Rendcomb to retire to become a full time Grandmother with all the responsibilities this includes from school runs to child minding so will still be kept very active and fully employed.

Mrs Jennifer (Jenny) Eden:

Jenny joined Rendcomb in 1997 and has been with the College for 15 years, she has worked as part of the Joy and Jenny team in Godman House and later with Margaret, they have been a formidable team that can be relied upon by the House Parents to deliver an outstanding quality of workmanship ensuring that every nook and cranny has been sought out and cleaned to the highest standard. The Students have always been top priority. Jenny's husband, a very accomplished builder and plasterer was for a short time a member of the works team and is much missed.

Jenny is leaving Rendcomb to take up the role of a caring Grandparent/Child Minder for their daughter and will be busy following her recent move from Chedworth to their new house in Cirencester making it a home, her happy smiling face and can do attitude will be much missed by all, Staff and Students alike.

OR TRAVEL BURSARY

Emily Tennant-Bell (2005-10) writes: During my gap year in 2011, I travelled to Kenya with Camps International. During the first week of my trip I travelled to Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary. Whilst at Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary, I went on game drives through the sanctuary, seeing the elephants really close up. I also worked in the school, during which I helped plant crops within the school grounds and built a kitchen that involved the strenuous task of hand mixing cement in



extremely hot temperatures. After 5 days I travelled back to the base camp in Muhaka, near Diani Beach. Whilst in Kenya, the weekends involved trips to Forty Thieves beach bar to lie on the beach and visit the internet Café. During my second week, I remained in Muhaka during which I visited the local school to build school desks and teach Science to children of all ages.

During my third week we built a mud house in Muhaka, as part of a programme working to help old women suffering from domestic violence called Big Momma's House; this was by far my favourite week in Kenya. The house took about a week to



build and once it was finished we carried out a ceremony during which we handed the house over to the old women we had been building it for. Whilst building the house the group had decided to put some money together to buy Big Momma a bed (something she had never had before) complete with bed sheets and a mosquito net.

In my fourth week I travelled to Camp Kaya, only a short walk from Muhaka. Camp Kaya involved a lot of environmental work and

camping. Camp Kaya had no water supply so to ensure we could shower and have food, we had to walk 3 miles to a water pump to collect enough water for the day, this sometimes involved 3 trips a day. On the first day 2 local men took us on a walk through a sacred forest during which we had to pray to a tree; after the walk the 2 men explained our goal for the week which involved digging up what looked like small weeds that were killing the trees. It at first looked like an easy task until we discovered the roots of the weeds were the size of a small child resulting in Camp Kaya quickly becoming the hardest and most intense week not only because of the intense work but on the 3rd night we had to experience monsoon rain so hard that it caused the tent linings to meet resulting in it raining inside our tents for the entire night. After a night of very little sleep and soaking wet clothes we were desperate to return to our bunk beds in Muhaka (what then seemed like extremely luxurious

accommodation). At the end of the extremely difficult 5 days we finally returned to Muhaka for a weekend relaxing on Diani Beach.

Week 5 consisted of traveling to Camp Makongeni in a village about a 20 minute drive from Muhaka. The focus of Makongeni was marine conservation; we worked closely with the village people digging in the mangroves to aid with their fishing. During the evenings we went swimming in the mangroves with the local village kids, which was amazing.

Week 6 was spent at Muhaka. It was our last week there, so we worked up at the school for the whole week finishing off any tasks that had previously started as well as continuing building school desks and teaching English.

Week 7 and 8 were spent at Tsavo National Park. During this we went on early morning game drives as well as working in a school, in the national park and going on safari. Our work within the national park involved digging water troughs for the animals as well as helping to count the animals so the rangers could keep track of numbers and species. In the school, we taught science, Maths and English.

My trip to Kenya was the most amazing experience, something that I still wish I could do all over again. My trip would not have been possible without the generous support of the Old Rendcombian Society, so thank-you again.

Lucy Taylor (2008-2010): During last summer I spent 7 weeks in Ghana. I was based in the northern town of Tamale and spent 5 weeks living with a Ghanaian host



family and working in the Abbam Chara Joy Primary School. My average day in Tamale was quite a different experience to that in England, especially Rendcomb! My alarm went off at 6.30am, I would put on my shoes after vigorously shaking them to make sure nothing untoward had decided to move in overnight and go across the court yard to the 'bathroom' colloquially known by us as 'mosquito heaven'. We only had the luxury of running water 3 or

4 times during our stay. It was showering the 'African Way', as my host father would say, with a bucket of water, which doubled up as the means used to flush the toilet. Electricity was also a rare commodity with regular blackouts making a torch a necessity.

Cultural sensitivity was crucial when making wardrobe choices, Northern Ghana is primarily Islamic so in public shoulders and legs had to be covered at all times. So, despite being in equatorial Africa any chance of a tan was obliterated by swaths of material ensuring maximum awareness of the high humidity!

As school I became 'Auntie Lucy' which was shrieked from the playground the moment the children saw me approaching. All the female teachers are called 'Aunties', the men 'Uncles' and the Head-teacher 'Grandmother'. The pupils ranged from 18 months to 6 years and some of them had never even seen a white person before, so I was a real novelty. The teachers had to stop the children from calling me



'sillimminga' (sort of phonetically spelt!) meaning white person in their local dialect. As the children were so young, and English was their second language, much of the time was spent playing, learning the alphabet, feeding them, changing them and singing nursery rhymes. Many of the songs they already knew involved guns, shooting animals and chanting so, as a compromise, I decided to teach them (amongst other songs) 'the Grand Old Duke of York'.

This involved singing at the top of their voices while marching around the school playground and it became a firm favourite.

It was a challenge controlling such young children who found it strange that I didn't use the cane, or 'behave' as it was called. This presented a real dilemma for me, I could not be seen to undermine other teachers but not to console a wailing two year old that had just been struck over the head went against all my instincts; particularly given that all they had done to deserve this reprimand was to fall asleep in a hot classroom at the end of a long School day.

After school we would have the rest of the afternoon left to go into the town centre and explore what else Tamale had to offer. Often this would involve trying to find an establishment that sold some kind of food that wasn't rice! Our weekends were our own and expeditions included going on safari at Mole Game Reserve; visiting Paga near the border with Burkina Faso, where locals bath and swim in the same pond as over 100 crocodiles. So far none of the villagers have ever been harmed by the reptiles; hiking to the Kimtampo Waterfalls and visiting a monkey sanctuary. The methods of transport around Ghana would have terrified any normal westerner. The 'tro -tro' is a car taxi/bus of sorts – the driver shouts the destination he is aiming for and then leaves when all the seats are full - a 4 seat car would take at least 7 people and even roof space was a ticket to another town. The Highway Code does not exist, potholes are cavernous and finding an even part of road surface rare.

The last 10 days of our trip we spent travelling from Tamale to Accra on the coast before flying home; experiencing the southern Ghanaian life, beaches and the coastal forts discovering the sinister past of the slave trade. Ghana was an incredible experience that will forever stay with me and be a constant reminder of how lucky we actually are.

CRICKET – 1st July 2012



Back Row: **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Ralph Aspin** (1997-2004), **Ed Thomason** (2005-2010, staff: 2012-), **Toby Harris** (2005-2007), **guest, guest**, **Rory Clark** (2002-2009), **Howard Auster** (pupil), **Richard Wills** (Governor), **Ralph Barnes** (1991-98), **Tony Rose** (1965-71), **Mike Slark** (Staff: 1991-)

Front Row: **James Brittain** (2001-2010), **Ed Kiggins** (2002-04), **Neil Ferreira** (Staff: 2009-), **Harry Priestner** (pupil), **Richard Witchall** (1989-96), **Dan Gregory** (pupil), **Alex Tatatar-Mills** (pupil), **Charlie Lamble** (pupil), **David Essenhigh** (Staff: 1969-2009).



The match was 35 overs. ORs batted first and scored 200 runs for 7 wickets, **Toby Harris**, 52 not out. In reply the Rendcomb XI scored 186 for 8, leaving the ORs victors by 14 runs.

RUGBY REUNION – Saturday 9th December 2012



Back row: **Neil Ferreira** (Staff: 2009-), **Alex Brealy** (1980-87; Staff 1994-), **Barrie Davies** (1987-92), **Max Birden** (2004-09), **John Gotley** (1973-78), **Roland Martin** (1982-89; Headmaster 2011), **Henry Evans** (2002-2007), Sam White (son of OR), Alex Gotley (son of an OR), **Jack Barton** (2002), **James Brittain** (2003-2010), **Hugh Marsden** (Staff: 2004-), **Richard Collins** (2001-2008), **Mike Slark** (Staff: 1991), Daniel Gregory (student), **Joe Scott** (2001-2008), **Henry Brittain** (2004-09), Oli Birden (student), **Ralph Aspin**, (1997-2004) **Tommy Lait** (1996-2003), Front row: Aaron Read (guest), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10), Tom Layton (Staff), **James Spackman** (1997-2002), **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), **Harley Phelps** (2002-2009), Yannis Dimopoulos (student), Joshua Thomas (student), guest, **Bill White** (Staff: 1961-97)



Tag Rugby Tournament scores

Group 1	Rendcomb A	Rendcomb B	Querns	Total
Rendcomb A	*	3	2	5
Rendcomb B	1	*	1	2
Querns	4	4	*	8

Group 2	OAPs	Staff	Tommy's	Total
OAPs	*	3	3	6
Staff	5	*	4	9
Tommy's	6	4	*	10

5th place: Rendcomb B v OAPs 1:3, 3rd Place Rendcomb v Tommy's

1:2 Final: Staff v Querns 2:1. The Staff team were the winners.

LACROSSE - Sunday 9th December 2012



ORs Lacrosse took place on a cold and icy Sunday in December up top. Two mixed teams were assembled between ORs, current pupils and coaches (including an honorary fe(male) member-thanks Mark!) . A close fought game was had with some great goals being scored either end. Many thanks to Karen and for all those who came to watch. Particular thanks to **Naomi Giles (2004-06)**, **Samantha Daly (2004-06)** and **Megan Mulhall (2004-12)**. **Jessica Weston**

The hockey reunion scheduled for 23rd March was cancelled due to snow.

DESTINATION OF 6A LEAVERS 2012

Thomas Benson	English Language and Literature, Oxford University
Charles Black	Business Management, Royal Agricultural College
Baohui Cai	Accounting and Finance Edinburgh
Chang Chang	Mathematics with Economics, University College London
Echo Chen	Art Foundation Place
Charlotte Clements	International Equine and Agricultural Management, Royal Agricultural College
Christian Couch	Computer Science with Business (Placement), Bath
Katherine Daly	History of Art, York
Feiyu (William) Fang	Mechanical Engineering, Nottingham
Daniel Geerah	Gap Year
Patrick Gilling	Business Management, Cardiff
Oliver Greenway	Law, Greenwich School of Management
Andrea Haas	Psychology, Plymouth
Maria Highlands	Architectural Design and Technology, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Yaqi (Betty) Hu	Biochemistry, Imperial
Eric Li	Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong
Ka Iek (Tommy) Lin	Mathematics and Economics, LSE
Wenbo (Nester) Liu	Mechanical Engineering, Birmingham
Jake McKeown	Drama, Bristol
Max Birden	Gap Year
Miles Metcalfe	Theatre and Performance Technology, Liverpool Institute of Arts
Kai Missalla	Electronics technician training, 3 yrs in Munich & Frankfurt
Megan Mulhall	English & Contemporary Media, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Philip Oepen	Applying to German University next year
Holly Phelps	Gap Year
Daniel Sadjadian	Computing, University of the West of England
Yefeng (Charles) Shi	Mathematics with Business Management, Birmingham
Hannah Taylor	French/English Language, Cardiff
Jordan Thomas	English, Loughborough
Qiannan (Zöe) Wang	Film Studies, King's College London
Jolice Wong	Art Foundation Place
Yizhou (Constance) Xu	Mathematics with Economics, University College London
Renqi (Erick) Yu	Information Management for Business, Univ. College London
Ye Zheng	Management, Royal Holloway University London
Yu Zheng	Art Foundation Place

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Registered Charity No: 290373

Chairman: Richard Wills, Middle End Farm, Eastington, Northleach, Cheltenham
Glos. GL54 3PL, Tel: 01451 860421, appointed 2004

Executive Trustee: Colin Burden, 21 The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos. GL7
2ER Telephone: 01285 655240, appointed 2005

Aim: To establish bursaries and scholarships for boys and girls from Gloucestershire Primary Schools who might not otherwise have the opportunity of a Rendcomb education and to provide support to families currently at the school who find themselves in times of crisis.

This has been an encouraging year for The Friends. In early 2012, six like-minded ORs from the 93, 95 and 96 leavers agreed to support The Friends through Gift Aid standing orders and have become founder members of The 1920 Club. This group through regular financial support hopes to keep the vision that Noël Wills implemented in the school he founded in 1920 very much at the forefront of Rendcomb's future.

The Friends are very grateful for the support that this group has given. With existing covenants our income stream will be at least £5,000.00 this year and we have been able to support two pupils so that they could complete their studies at the College. To foster this initiative, the College has kindly given its financial support to a small brochure outlining the history, aims and objectives of The Friends. Using this brochure some ORs have agreed to contact their contemporaries to seek support for The Friends. With further networking we hope to double our income to £10,000.00 or more per annum. If you feel you can act as a fundraiser for your year please contact Colin Burden.

The Headmaster is holding an inaugural dinner for members of The 1920 Club in June. More events will follow.

Finally you can help The Friends for free. Conduct your online shopping through www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Easy to set up and at no disadvantage or extra expense to you as a customer. Shopping through the portal ensures that retailers donate directly to 'The Friends of Rendcomb' as you do your shopping. Over £150.00 has been raised so far. I am sure that collectively we can do better!

As always we are grateful for your continuing support.

Colin Burden

Other Trustees:

Appointed

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 – Comm. Ops 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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

E-MAIL.....

Years at Rendcomb.....

Telephone number.....

Please send to:

Jane Gunner, Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos
GL7 7BA Or e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk