

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



May 2015

41st ISSUE

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 29th June 2014 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:	Jessica Weston (1998-2005)
Secretary:	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 Breal (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Tommy Lait (1996-2003) Patrick Boydell (1988-95) Roland Martin (1982-89; HM: 2011-) 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 Tel: 01296 582741 e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

**The Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting of the Old
Rendcombian Society held at Rendcomb College in Room E1
on Sunday 29th June 2014**

Present: Jane Gunner (1975-1977), Colin Burden (Staff: 1966-97), Bill White (Staff: 1961-1997), Richard Tudor (1973-1980), Roland Martin ((1982-1989), Headmaster (2011-)), Jess Weston (1998-2005), James Hutton-Potts (1977-1984), Toby Brealy (1977-1984), Alex Brealy (1982-1987), David Williams (1966-1971), Claire Germaine (1990-1993), Des Knox (1970-1975), Andrew Payne (1979-1984), Richard Newman (1977-1984), Hamish Wilson (1971-1978), Hilary Sumsion (1987-1989), Stuart Honeyball (1968-1975), Susie Waddington (1987-1989)

Two VI form pupils had set up a theatre company called NM Generation and had written a play, Faith, based on the story of a village called Imber which was evacuated during the war and the inhabitants have never been allowed to live in their homes. The play had been very well received at the College and locally and Luke Nixon and James Midge along with a cast of 11 are taking it to the Edinburgh Festival. Luke and James gave a presentation to the AGM and a cast member Alex Pugh performed a short extract, in the hope that the OR Society would consider sponsoring the play.

1. Apologies: Harley Phelps (2002-2009), Michael Miles (1943-1950), Chris Wood (1965-1971, Staff: 1976-09), Julian Comrie (1946-1959), Pat Boydell (1988-1995)
2. The minutes of the 80th AGM held on Sunday 30th June 2013 were signed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising out of the Minutes held on 30th June 2013 There were no matters arising.
4. Honorary Treasurer's report
In the absence of the Honorary Treasurer Chris Wood, the Honorary Auditor, David Williams gave the report.

He drew the meeting's attention to the surplus for the year of £272.24, this after the cost of a special mail drop for the late Roy Dennis. A total of £1750 had been spent on the travel bursary because there had been £250 left over from 2013.

There had been a donation of £10,000 from Mrs Peggy Hitchcock in memory of her son the late Colin Hitchcock. David Williams explained that this is deemed to be in a restricted fund until it is decided how it should be spent.

The Headmaster asked why year-end was 31st May, it was explained that it allowed the latest newsletter costs to be included.

It was proposed by Bill White, seconded by Richard Tudor and agreed unanimously that the accounts be approved

(i) Jane Gunner reported that the committee were recommending £500 sponsorship for NM Generation's production of *Faith*.

This was proposed by David Williams, seconded by Claire Germaine and agreed unanimously

5. Nominations for Committee Members

The Honorary Secretary reported that she had received no new nominations.

The Chairman, who has now been in post for more than 20 years, asked if there was any one who would like to be considered for the position.

6. Travel Bursary

Jane reported that the travel bursary was working well with excellent reports coming in from the recipients. Both Jess Weston and the Headmaster reported that the quality of application had also been higher than in the past.

The Headmaster thanked Alex Brealy for taking the lead in promoting and administrating the travel bursary application within the school. The Committee recommendation was that the Travel Bursary should again be set at £1500 for 2015. This was proposed by Colin Burden, seconded by Hamish Wilson and agreed unanimously.

7. Any other business

Colin Burden reported on the Friends of Rendcomb.

He thanked the College for funding printing costs for brochures and easyfundraising.co.uk leaflets. It also pays for the F.O.R accounts to be prepared by Hayes McIntyre the College accountants.

He went on to report that the income for this year is up to £16,476 and that next year will be at least £12,000.

The Headmaster gave a report to the meeting of the College's activities for the year.

Bill White thanked Colin Burden and Jane Gunner for all they had done for the F.O.Rs and O.Rs respectively. In thanking him for his kind words, Jane said it was a team effort with lots of help and support from Committee members.

8. The Chairman thanked the Headmaster for making the ORs so welcome and for hosting the day.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm. and adjourned for an excellent lunch

82nd Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 28th June 2015 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 81st A.G.M. held on 29th June 2014
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 2015
6. Travel Bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures

Sunday 28th June 2015 timetable:

- 10.30 a.m. Coffee in Clock Hall
11.15 a.m. **Cricket match**
12 noon Pay Bar
12.15 p.m. **AGM** in Room E1
1.00 p.m. **Hot Lunch** including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors. Main course to be collected from Servery.
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.

40 YEARS ON – Sunday 28th June 2015 Calling the class of 1975!!

Some are planning to have a class reunion on OR Day this summer, (Sunday 28th June 2015) to celebrate the 40th anniversary of leaving school.

We would like to encourage people from that general era, especially the 1974 and 1976 leavers to come along as well. We have had a good response so far, but if you cannot make it, do get in touch anyway and let us have your news.

Best wishes,

Stuart Honeyball (stuarthoneyball@gmail.com), 20 Mow Barton, Yate, Bristol, BS17 5NF

Jon Dixon (jon@wayouteast.co.uk), 84 Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9HE

Des Knox (knox.des@gmail.com), 2 Dobson Court, Chipping Street, Tetbury, GL8 8ES

20 YEARS ON – Saturday 27th June 2015 Calling the leavers of 1995!!

Contact Hannah Boydell at development@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk

Tag Rugby Tournament: Sunday 6th December 2015
(provisional) **Hockey:** Saturday 19th March 2016 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 3rd July 2016 (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: Harley Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com, Tommy Lait, tommy_lait@yahoo.co.uk,

Hockey: Harley Phelps harley.phelps@googlemail.com, Dominic Sharman, sharman_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Girls' sports: Jess Weston, 07969 177437, jess_weston@hotmail.com **Cricket:** harley.phelps@googlemail.com, Pat Boydell, patrickb@tindirect.com

OR COMMITTEE - NEIL LUMBY

Neil Lumby (1968-73) took over as Chairman of the O.R. Society in 1994 after a spell as Vice-Chairman. He has now indicated that he wishes to step down after **twenty** years in the post! Despite living near Taunton and having demanding business requirements he made time to support the Society by attending committee meetings and AGMs regularly until the last few years and controlling the meetings with a good mixture of common-sense and humour. Such a lengthy spell as Chairman indicated his dedication to Rendcomb and his strong belief in its ethos, partly perhaps inherited from his father who was also an O.R.

The Society has been most fortunate to have had Neil's reliable leadership for so long and also to have had the benefit of his out-going and engaging personality.

For the past five years we have benefited from Neil's business experience as he has arranged the format and printing of the O.R. Newsletter. We are immensely grateful for his long service as Chairman and trust that he will keep in touch with the Society.

Bill White

OR REUNION – 29th June 2014

25 YEARS ON

Roland Martin (1982-89) arranged a get together for all those who left in 1988, 89 and 90.

30 YEARS ON

Toby Brealy (1977-84) arranged a reunion for 1984 leavers.



James Hutton-Potts,(1977-84), **Angus Waddell** (1977-84), **Andy Payne** (1979-84), **Richard Newman** (1977-84) and **Toby Brealy** (1977-1984) with **David Essenhigh** (Staff: 1969-2011) in the background.

Over sixty people attended the 2014 summer reunion on a warm sunny day. Class reunions had been organised by Roland Martin whose year group left 25 years ago and Toby Brealy whose year group had left 30 years ago. Others from the years either side also attended.

The AGM was well supported and members were very impressed with the presentation and performance of their play 'Faith' from current pupils. They were preparing to take the play to the Edinburgh Festival.

The College provided an excellent meal with an array of superlative puddings which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Bill White welcomed

ORs and their guests and spoke of Carlo Vuolo's contribution to the College over the last seventeen years. The Society presented him with a framed print of the College.



Anne Haas (Deputy Head of the Junior School) made OR history by becoming the first Rendcomb Junior School teacher to have been at the College long enough to receive a presentation from the Society.

Jenny Phelps née Watson (1978-80) thanked Anne on behalf of ORs and the parents of ORs for the 12 years of dedication and innovation she had brought to the role. Anne was presented with a rose and a set of College mats. Anne thanked everyone for having welcomed her and her family so warmly when they moved to Britain from South Africa and reminded everyone how special Rendcomb is. She has moved on to become Headmistress of

The King's Junior School, Gloucester. The ORs expressed their congratulations and appreciation.

ORs then went on to enjoy the remainder of the cricket match, which ended with a rout of the ORs by teatime; the consolation was tea, sandwiches and éclairs in the pavilion kindly provided by the College. Anne wrote to Jane and the Old Rendcombian Society after the event:

Thank you so much for the lovely rose and treasured Rendcomb placemats; they will both trigger fond memories and warm conversations with good friends. I was really moved by Jenny's speech and the lovely send off. Rendcomb is very dear to the Hass family.

With all our love and gratitude Anne, Matthieu, Andrea and Daniel

CONGRATULATIONS

Thomas Margesson (2003-2011) 1st Class Hons, Law, Bristol University. **Fiona Trumper** (2002-2009) distinction, Master of Art and Design: Fine Art, Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Andrew Perrin (1990-95) 2 gold medals at the Invictus Games in 2014



Robert Edy (1959-67) has been appointed Chaplain to Rendcomb College commencing June 2015.

Christopher King (Staff: 1983-94) is Chairman elect of HMC for 2015/16
Alexander Tennant-Bell (2004-09) has been awarded the Sword of Honour at his passing out from Sandhurst.

BIRTHS

To **Clare** (née **Newman**) (1991-93) and Mark **Chappell**, a daughter, Caitlin Billie, born March 2014.

To Liana and **Justin Rosa** (1980-87) a daughter Sophia Alexandra, born December 2010 and a son, David Zurab, born September 2013.

To **April Edwards** (2001-09) and **Henry Brittain** (2004-2009) a daughter Florence Arabella, born September 2014.



MARRIAGES

Charlotte Kitchen (née Bohlken) (1994-1996) married Christopher Egan in April 2013



Sarah Pink (1972-74) married Lawrence Howard Sereda in July 2013 in The Alameda, Gibraltar

Sarah Rudderham (1997-2004) married Richard Bennett in Sydney Australia in August 2014, and subsequently celebrated the wedding in the orchard of the Bennett farm in Ampney St Mary on 30th August 2014.

Charlotte Phillips (1998-2002) married Daniel Smith at Holbrook House, Wincanton, Somerset in August 2014



Ralph Aspin (1997-2004) married Nicola Jenner in June 2014



Alice Barefoot (1997-2004) married Christopher Hewins Tredwell in August 2014 at North Cerney All Saints Church.



Alice with her bridesmaids, **Sarah Colson** (1997-2004), **Harriet Kingsford** (1999-2004), **Chloë Clarke** (1997-2002) and **Romilly Evans** (1997-2004).

Matthew Nichols (2000-2005) married Claire O'Malley in September 2014 at Puzzlewood in the Forest of Dean.



Celebrating with Claire and Matt are **Rupert Uzzell** (1998-2005) and **Peter Liang** (2000-2005) who played the violin at the ceremony.

Safia Malik (1998-2003) married Naeem Muzaffar in August 2014



Safia with her sister **Samya** (1999-

OBITUARIES

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

Peter Forest (1935-42) died March 2012

Gerard Benson (1945-50) died on 29 April 2014 at the age of 83. **Martin Knight** (1943-1952) wrote of him: His funeral in Bradford today, attended by the Lord Mayor, was the biggest I have ever been to. He described himself as a 'jobbing poet', but was also an actor and a teacher of great talent.

Dr Phillip Evans (1972-79) died in March 2014. He is much missed by family and friends.

Lt Col The Hon Jeremy Grey (Bursar: 1994-2009) died in France in



December 2014 after a protracted period of ill health. Jeremy Grey was Bursar from 1994 to 2009. This was a period of considerable development and expansion at the College. Jeremy's military precision, wisdom and expert advice were essential ingredients for the success of these plans. The AstroTurf was completed in 1997, financed by the Michael Wills bequest, but driven by Jeremy's skillful forward planning and negotiations with

Cotswold District Council. This was followed by the development of the area to be used by the new Junior School, which was opened in 2000. In addition, the French and English departments were rehoused in the Stable Block. Although much of the forward planning was due to Jeremy Grey, these schemes would not have reached a successful completion without the dedicated advice and work of Paul and Peter Cairns and the Works Team. Jeremy Grey also gave his support to the ICT Network Manager in transforming ICT provision across the College.

Jeremy Grey was also Clerk to the Governors and a Church Warden of St. Peter's Church. But perhaps his most visible legacy is the complete refurbishment and redecoration of the ground floor rooms of the main College building, thereby making them an attractive venue for wedding receptions.

The Society extends its sincere condolences to his wife, Suzie, and the family. **Bill White**

The **Rev. Godfrey Simpson** died suddenly and most unexpectedly on the first day of the September term 2014. He came to Rendcomb in 2010 as Chaplain to the College, after retiring as Vicar of Lower Slaughter and its surrounding parishes. With his lively, open and humorous personality he quickly became a popular member of the College community, making a valued contribution to the religious and spiritual life of the College. His death was a great shock to the College community and of course to his wife, Ann, to whom the Society extends its deep condolences. **Bill White**

Hugh W T Bates (1936-40) died in 2012.

James Daniel "Dane" Sinclair was born in Harborne, Birmingham, in 1920, the only son of William (later Sir William) and Dr Patricia Sinclair. He was at Rendcomb from 1934 - 1937, where his academic achievements were not matched in the sporting arena. Described in a school report as "lazy and clumsy" by his games teacher, (I have all the original reports from this less politically-correct era). He was believed to be the only pupil to be punished for cowardice on the hockey field though this may just be one of his frequent anecdotes. "All running, jumping, javelin-throwing and cold showers," as he later described life at Rendcomb, where he developed a lifelong aversion to sport. He would often say "Whenever I feel the need to take exercise, I go and lie down until it wears off."



A photograph appears in *A History of Rendcomb College* on page 77. I remember queuing with my father to get a copy signed by Kathleen James. When we reached the front of the queue my father underwent an instantaneous transformation back to the deferential pupil in front of an esteemed member of staff. Mrs James recognised him instantly and pronounced that there was a picture of him in the book, immediately turned to the page, and commented that it was the only occasion of which she was aware when he was known to have willingly picked up an implement of work!

He obviously held great affection for Rendcomb. When we were visiting relatives in Stow on the Wold during the Summer holidays in 1972, he insisted on an impromptu visit. I was fortunate enough to be invited to take and scrape through the entrance exam and become a pupil from 1973-1978. We were later followed by his grandson, and my nephew, George Ord (2009 – 2010).

On leaving Rendcomb he studied French, political economy and history at Glasgow University before volunteering for the Navy and joining the Fleet Air Arm. During his naval service he flew a variety of torpedo-bombers including Albacores and the iconic Swordfish, from aircraft carriers in the Arctic, Atlantic and Mediterranean including operations during the siege of

Malta. His last flight off the wartime Ark Royal in defense of Malta was reputed to be *the last ever* flight off the Ark, struck by torpedo only 5 minutes after his take off on November 13th 1941. She sank some 12 hours later. 70 years later in 2011 he was again on the flight deck of another Ark Royal as a guest of honour being presented to the Queen at the decommissioning ceremony in Portsmouth.

During his service he was forced to ditch into the sea twice; once by engine failure near Gibraltar in 1942, when he was rescued by HMS Hesperus and a second time in 1943 having been shot down during a night raid on Catania, Sicily when he was captured by an Italian gunboat. Typically, he subsequently told the tale with his customary humorous twist professing that the Germans on board demanded any weapons while the Italian crew demanded their sea-soaked cigarettes! He was to spend the rest of the European war as a prisoner of war including time in Marlag 'O' near Westermike near Bremen, a camp portrayed in the 1953 film 'Albert R.N.'. He described this escape attempt, using a dummy prisoner as a stand-in during roll calls, while the real prisoner escaped as mainly a matter of staving off boredom. He subsequently linked his time to his time at Rendcomb saying that there was little difference between P.W. at school and P.O.W. during the war; just the one letter in fact.

He was eventually freed and repatriated after the Allied invasion, and immediately embarked on retraining to fly Hurricanes with a view to the Pacific war. Thankfully it ended before he could be deployed.

Having met my mother Barbara Barclay-Bishop, a Wren from Hertfordshire, when they were both stationed at Crail in Fife, they were married in 1948. As a talented piano and trumpet player he began a career in music, studying at the Royal Scottish Academy from 1953 to 1955 and writing and arranging for The Citizens Theatre in Glasgow. He worked alongside many of the popular entertainers of the day including Stanley Baxter, Fulton Mackay, Roddy MacMillan, Joan Sims and numerous others. However, with me and my siblings David, Jill, and Susan arriving throughout the 1950s he took a more stable career path, joining Dunlop in Coventry, eventually becoming chief Press Officer, before moving to G&J Weir Engineering in Glasgow in 1964 where he remained until retirement.

His two great passions in life were words and music, and the house was never short of the Jazz of Oscar Peterson, Count Baise and Duke Ellington

and that of my father's regular solo and band practice sessions. He remained an active semi-professional jazz pianist until Alzheimer's robbed him of the ability to perform. David, my older brother went on to become chief rock correspondent for The Times, and professional musician. Jill went on to become a music television producer of The Old Grey Whistle Test, Rock Goes to College, The Tube and Live Aid and continues consulting with the Band Aid Trust. Susan was blessed with perfect pitch and a singing voice that would probably still turn heads today. Somehow I got sport instead, something my father regarded with mild amusement and occasional feigned sympathy for my misfortune.

His second passion in life was words and he was equally happy writing short stories, articles, speeches, and radio plays. His greatest joy was the well worded aphorism; a terse saying, expressing a general truth, principle or astute observation, and spoken or written in a laconic and memorable form. So I will leave you with his three favourite aphorisms.

'Shouting is the effort of a limited mind to express itself.' Charles Coburn
- *Vivacious Lady* 1938

'The use of oaths gives the inarticulate the illusion of eloquence' unattributed

'Violence is the argument of the intellectually underprivileged' unattributed

James Daniel Sinclair, Fleet Air Arm pilot, public relations officer, writer and musician, was born on December 24, 1920. He died on August 3, 2014, aged 93 **John (Jade) Sinclair** (1973-1978)



St Peter's Church update

Most of us fondly remember our school days and of course attending services in church or chapel is part of the structure of school life. Whether you enjoyed or endured the services, whether you put coins or paperclips in the collection, I hope that you will take a second to remember St Peter's Church. It is a beautiful example of a Grade I listed Cotswold stone church, with some really significant historical features such as the 12th century font and the mediaeval stained glass windows.

As some of you may know there was a danger at the end of 2012 that the Church would have to close due to lack of support, with expensive repairs needed and money thin on the ground. A small, dedicated committee was formed, determined to halt the rot and St Peter's was 're-born'.

The going has not been easy. An appeal was made to parishioners and ORs with an excellent response, fund raising events were held and the congregation has increased – all with the support of our Parish Priest, Reverend Warwick Heathcote.

The heating system has been replaced to make winter services more comfortable, the church yard has been tidied and in 2014 we were able to pay our Parish Share to the Diocese. However just when you think you are heading in the right direction we find that all the bell ropes need replacing at a cost of over £1000.00, the large Wellingtonia tree behind the church requires a lightning conductor and the dead removing - the list continues. We have not even started to tackle all the requirements of the quinquennial report....

So if you fondly remember St Peter's, Rendcomb we would be most grateful for any help that you are able to give us. Please contact me by email: annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk, by telephone 01285 831686 or send cheques to St Peter's Church Rendcomb, c/o The Old House, Rendcomb, Cirencester GL7 7EY

Thank you and perhaps when you are next at Rendcomb you will pay us a visit.

Annabel Purcell, Treasurer

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE Reg. Char No. 290373

Chairman: Richard Wills, appointed 2004

Executive Trustee: Colin Burden, 21 The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos.GL7 2ER Tel: 01285 65240, appointed 2005

Jane Gunner – (née Watson) OR (1975-1977), former parent, Hon. Sec. OR Society, Governor Rendcomb College

Roland Martin - Headmaster (2011 -), OR (1982-89) Ex Officio

Keith Winmill – OR (1972-79), Richard Law – OR (1964-70)

Mark Naylor – Comm. Ops Manager, Rendcomb College

Dr. Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan) – OR (1974-76), former parent
Jessica Weston – OR (1998-2005), OR Vice-Chairman

Patrick Boydell – OR (1988-1995), OR Committee Member

Colin Burden writes: Having received a number of substantial donations, I am pleased to report an increase in income from £16,000 in 2013/14 to over £40,000 in 2014/15. Thank you once again for your generosity. We enclose a brochure on the Performing Arts Centre, an exciting and long overdue project, which we very much hope you will support.

Penny Jones (1976-78) writes: The Friends of Rendcomb College are registered to receive donations via Easyfundraising.com. The funds raised help children who might not otherwise be able to attend Rendcomb or, indeed, to assist current families who may find themselves in hardship. So far, 44 people have signed up and nearly £1000 has been raised.

Anthony and I signed up about 15 months ago and, in that time, have raised £187 and we are nudging at the heels of Roland Martin who is about to reach the £200 mark! It is SO easy for the pence and pounds to add up. Basically, retailers agree to donate a percentage of what you spend to your chosen cause. The percentage donated varies immensely. By way of example, John Lewis donates 1 - 2% while Gap is a hefty 5%. Switching insurance, energy or mobile phone providers warrants lump sum donations of up to £25 or more. As country-dwellers, we rely on internet shopping from retailers such as John Lewis, Waitrose, Gap, Amazon and so on. All we have to do is to access our chosen retailers through the Easyfundraising website. This is made easier when ordering from a laptop or computer by installing the Easyfundraising tool bar which clicks in to remind you automatically when you visit one of their supporter's websites. As an added benefit of using Easyfundraising, you gain access to a whole range of discount codes and offers through their website. **Pease do give**

Easyfundraising a go to raise money for Rendcomb. It's easy and FREE! Log on now to easyfundraising.org.uk and see for yourself

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS

Roger Stebbing (1952-59), **Richard Taylor** and **Robert Cockrell** (1952-60) visited the college in May 2014.

David C. de Peyer (OR 1947 -53), 80th birthday was reported in The Times in April 2014. He is a former director of the Cancer Research Campaign.

Matthew Cragoe (1972-77) wrote in response to the 2014 newsletter:

I get to hear quite a bit about the school through **Keith Winmill**; (1972-79). The Big Miller and I have season tickets at the Arsenal so during the season I'm kept up to date!

As for me, my wife, Carol, and I live in Enfield (about 25 mins door to door to the Emirates), and I am leaving the University of Sussex after 5 years to take up a new position as Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts) at the University of Lincoln. Be sure to send us your brightest and best!

Charlotte Egan née Bohlken (1994-96) wrote to Jane in May 2014:

After my first husband died unexpectedly in October 2009, it took me a little while to recover, but a year later and thanks to plenty of TLC and support from my truly amazing friends and family I came out the other side, moved house and began 'living' again ...quite happily with my dog and cat by my side.... 6months later I had missed my bus after having dinner with some friends and chose to wait in a pub for the next bus... Good job I did, as I bumped into a rather lovely young chap. We have been inseparable ever since and after a whirlwind 14months found ourselves in church getting married in April 2013!

Rachel Medill (1979 –81) writes:

All through my days at Rendcomb and even during my time at Durham University I was lucky enough to pursue my horse riding ambitions which culminated in riding at Badminton and Burghley. Eventually aged 24 I decided that it would be more lucrative to get a proper job and so left Gloucestershire to work in London. Twenty years later having worked as a marketing director for a unit trust group I decided to leave the city and in 2008 I set up a charity to help disadvantaged children in my local town, Milton Keynes.

Ride High helps children who are in foster care, who are suicidal or self harming, who are caring for a parent or siblings or who come from environments dominated by drugs, alcohol, ill health or poverty. Many are not in education at all. The children age between 8 and 17 and despite their different backgrounds all share a deep sense of hopelessness or despair.

We aim to build the children's confidence, self esteem and do this by teaching them to ride and care for horses and by working to develop key social skills through equine related clubroom projects. Over time we work to help the children back into education, to find work experience or to get into college courses. We work with over 100 children a week, many of whom attend weekly for between 9 months and 2 years.

Over the last 5 years we have helped over 400 children many of whom have gone on to animal or equine studies. We achieve highly positive and lasting outcomes with 95% of the children we work with as evaluated by the children themselves, their parents, carers, schools, and referrers.

I'm married to Alan, an actuary by profession, who I met in the city 25 years ago. We decided not to have children - maybe somehow we knew that hundreds of children would become our responsibility in due course!

When I set up Ride High it was with the intention of running a small enterprise that would keep me busy on a voluntary basis 2 or 3 days a week. 5 years later I work full time as trustee and chief executive, Alan is the company secretary, we have a board of 6 other voluntary trustee/directors, a team of 9 staff and our patron is the BBC's Jeremy Vine.

It's the hardest work and also the best job I've ever had - we get to change lives for the better. My biggest challenge is raising £260,000 a year and so now we are looking to buy a riding school of our own from which to expand our operations and provide some financial sustainability. Our website is www.ridehigh.org and our blog is ridehigh.me.uk.

Tom Margesson (2003-2011) moved to London in September 2014 to start his LPC in Holborn before starting a training contract at Travers Smith LLP this year.

Emily Slark (2006-2008) is now [Visitor Experience & Events Manager](#) at Lodge Park in Gloucestershire for the National Trust. In August 2014, she organised a highly successful exhibition of photographs taken of the estate by the ranger, Mike Robinson. Amongst those who attended were **Bill White**, **Bobby** and **Esther Morgan**, **Mike** and **Anne Slark**, **Chris** and **Sarah Bell**, **Diana Dodd**, **Sophie** and **Hugh Blackwell**, **Jane**, **Richard** and **Luke Gunner**.

Chris Wood (65-71, Staff 76-09) met **Arwyn Jones** (1985-90) selling his attractive ceramic pieces at Bath Christmas Market. Inspired by Martin Griffiths (Staff: 1982-2003), Arwyn trained at Loughborough College of Art and Design and now has his own pottery near Plymouth. He is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. <http://www.arwynjonesceramics.co.uk>

Maxine Bauer (1973-75) is a photographer in San Francisco, her website is: www.maxinebauer.com

David Vaisey (1945-54) gave a talk at the Cheltenham Festival in October 2014 on the History of Gloucestershire – Bodleian Library

David gave a ringing endorsement of the opportunity he had been given by winning the Foundation scholarship to Rendcomb. Those with a Rendcomb connection who attended the lecture were: **Bill White, Colin Burden, Bobby** and Esther **Morgan**, Martin and Di Lee-Browne, Sir Henry Elwes, **Carol Lamble** née Franklin (1977-79), Jim and Deirdre Waddell, and **Jane Gunner**(1975-77)

Andrew Perrin (1990-95) was a Sergeant in the Royal Signals and after 12 years was medically

discharged because a knee operation went wrong causing him to get Crohns and then depression. He is now very fit and contacting Combat Stress for help got him involved in the Invictus Games, where he won the time trial in the morning and in the afternoon won his road race by a long way. He is now part of the government scheme Troops for Teachers at Brighton University working at his local school, Barnet Academy.



Andrew with H.R.H. Prince Harry.

Fiona Trumper (2002-2009) has had her dissertation published. This work aims to explore the links between repetition, handwriting and bereavement to determine how repetitive writing might have a potential to act as a process to relieve and document feelings of grief during bereavement. The study recognises that contemporary bereavement theories are seldom applied to art theory; it therefore intends to explore the potential of this, whilst shedding a positive light on processes of repetition and handwriting as being integral to establishing and maintaining a sense of self in everyday life, and during bereavement. It also explores how these theories can be applied within an art context, it also includes a discussion regarding practice-based research created to visually communicate the theories explored. Overall, this study aims to analyse contemporary bereavement theories from an alternative view point, with a potential for these to be applied within an art therapy context.

Charlotte Ellis (1999-2004) took part in the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South African before returning to her fourth season on the Ladies European Golf Tour.

Chris Terrill (Staff 1978-82). According to Channel 5, Chris Terrill ‘makes Bear Grylls look like Barbie’, so they broadcast his latest material to prove it. In Chris’ opinion, we should all explore unusual locations and avoid the more obvious holiday destinations. The locations he films include the melting ice sheets of the Norwegian Arctic and the rolling sand dunes of the Somali desert. Throughout, Chris has no support team and relies on getting along with reindeer herders and militant Muslims to work and survive. He mentions that most Muslims want to dissociate themselves from the extreme activities of the few fundamentalists who grab the headlines.

Those ORs who remember Chris will recall his interest in anthropology and his tales of interesting travels before he taught at Rendcomb. While he enjoys the wild landscapes, he seems to revel in the chance to meet people from totally different backgrounds and could be seen as an inspiration to some of our ORs who embark on gap year travels to less comfortable parts of the world: ‘I prefer the lone wolf approach as it gives me more freedom and a better ability to become accepted by the people I am filming. I see my job as a filmmaker is to help cast light on the human condition and to help us all understand people outside our own terms of reference.’

Safia Muzaffer (née Malik) (1998-2003) and her husband Naeem have moved to Dubai. Safia is working as a teacher at Kings Dubai School and Naeem works in accountancy.

Donald Pearce (1967-1974) is working as an agricultural contractor and lives near Stonehouse. He occasionally works for **Andrew Pearce** (1967-1972), who farms near Berkeley.

Kathy Foley (née Harman) (1972-74) says, "I'm in Colorado, USA, my husband has retired from the US military so it looks like we'll be staying here. I'm currently working in the front office at an elementary school - and I love it! All those people, big and small - right up my alley." They have two daughters, Kristina and Adrianna, and two cats

Colin Beck (1970-73): currently lives in Bath, and works as a taxi driver. **Debbie Yates** (1973-75) is a Respiratory Physician in the Department of Thoracic Medicine at the St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and a Conjoint Associate Professor at the University of NSW. "Life in Australia is certainly good but we visit Europe every year so feel we have the best of both worlds. We have a son still at school."

David Barling (1966-73) is Reader in Food Policy at City University London. He and his wife live in Bucks, where his sons are at local schools.

Phil Smith (1968-74) says, "I live in Cardiff with my wife Ann, and the four children have left home now. I work as a neurologist (and hope to for a few more years yet) and arrange the Medical School's assessments. I also co-edit a journal called Practical Neurology. I worked as a neurologist in Cornwall in the 1990s but moved to Cardiff to focus on people with epilepsy and to do more teaching and training. I stay reasonably active and cycle (only 2 miles) to work each day."

Bruce Mann (1967-1974) is the Cabinet Office's Finance Director.

Dr. Jonathan Lane (1967-74) became an operational forensic scientist for the Home Office after leaving university doing scenes and giving evidence in court specialising in fires scenes and explosives. He did this for 10 years before joining the main Home Office and the now Ministry of Justice doing policy work for Ministers for about 14 years. He finished up as the Area Director for Her Majesty's Courts Service for Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley, leaving this nearly 4 years ago. He had been living for more than 20 years in Wendover, Buckinghamshire with his wife of 35 years. They have two sons both grown up; one married and living in Singapore and the other getting married later this year. He now runs his own consultancy business with a friend, which he finds great fun, as well as doing some stuff for the NHS and some volunteering locally.

Ruth Baillie (née Beckett) (1972-74) wrote to **Des Knox** about her OR family members: **Simon Beckett** (1970-77): Simon is fine and living in Ireland with his wife Leish and their two daughters Laura and Aoife. He has

been affected badly by the turndown in the Irish economy and has not worked for several years although did so for many in cabinetry and carpentry. He still loves to fish, drink porter and walks a lot but also under the Irish regime has to do his community work to get his social welfare payments! So not all his time is his!

Rosie Muir née Beckett (1974-76) lives in London with hubby John and has a 22 year old daughter Abi and an 18 year old son Jake. She works as Co. Secretary in John's architect's practice. She loves to cook and garden (serious veg production) in her sparse spare time.

Ruth continues: I live in Leicestershire with my partner of some 25 years Bernard. I didn't through choice have children and have been a serious career girl instead. I managed to retire early and now indulge my love of horses (I have 3 just now) and travel, garden, walk and have fun with friends in the bits in between.

Alice Hughes (1996-2003) continues to work tirelessly in the fields of Ecology and Conservation. She was interviewed by Sky News: <http://news.sky.com/video/1438063/ecologist-on-extinction-threat>), in the run up to the conference in China at which H.R.H. Prince William spoke.





Alex Tennant-Bell (2004-09) receiving his award from the Chief of Staff of the US army.

He spent five months in Ecuador (see his Travel Bursary report <http://www.rendcombian.org.uk/pdfnews/2010.pdf>) during his gap year before reading Biology at Aberystwyth University and then worked for the MOD as a Biological Research Scientist at Porton Down before Sandhurst. While at Sandhurst has continued his hobby of rock climbing, spending the Winter recess period mountaineering in Scotland. Alex is commissioned into The Coldstream Guards

IN MEMORIAM

Oliver Morel (1930-34). The late Oliver Morel was a maker of fine furniture in the Arts and Crafts tradition whose life embodied the spirit and contradictions of that movement. In December 2014 some of his pieces came up for auction in Cheltenham. This contemporary mahogany and marquetry cabinet on bog oak stand, attributed to

him, had a stepped two-tier cabinet enclosed by two pairs panel folding doors and opening to reveal fitted interior of small drawers and pigeonholes, the door interiors inlaid with relief marquetry of blueberry, bilberry and grasses, all with demi-lune handles and on ebonised wood stand with square tapering supports and stretchers, 66cm wide x 138cm high. The closing bid was £4,400.



Colin Hitchcock (1971-78) Sunday 8th December saw a gathering of the late **Colin Hitchcock's** contemporaries in the Park at Rendcomb. **Jade Sinclair, Graham Moore** and **Colin Burden** had arranged by kind permission of **Major Tom Wills** for the planting of 3 trees in the park in **Colin's** memory. The trees were: Common beech - *Fagus sylvatica*, Dawyck beech - *Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck'*, Black walnut - *Juglans nigra*.

Amongst those present were **Roland Martin** (Headmaster 2011-2015, 1982-89), **Penny Jones** (1976-78), **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78), **Chris Pulford**, (1970-77), **Joe Watson** (1971-78), **Graham Moore** (1971-78), **Jade Sinclair** (1972-78), **Debbie Harrison** (1976-78), **Bill White** (Staff: 1961-97), **Colin Burden** (Staff:66-97)and **Jane Gunner** (1975-77).

The family were represented by Colin's brother Robert, his sister Mary Mortimer and her husband and Colin's 95 year old mother Peggy who was not going to let the miserable weather or rough terrain deter her from taking part.



Jade spoke very movingly of Colin's contribution to the Society as a whole and to his year group with whom he worked so hard to keep in touch. Lunch was provided at the College after which the family went on to scatter Colin's ashes on the Flying Field in a private farewell of their own.

COLLEGE NEWS



The Society is delighted to welcome Rob Jones who has been appointed as the new Headmaster to Rendcomb College. He is pictured here with his wife, Pippa and children, Max and Sienna and dog , Touille.

Rob is currently Deputy Head at Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, having previously taught at Clifton College and Cranford School. His teaching subjects are Business and Economics and he is looking forward to picking up the baton from Roland to progress the development of the Performing Arts Centre scheduled for completion in September 2016, the details of which are outlined in the enclosed brochure.



The new team: Rob Jones with Victoria Beevers, newly appointed Head of the Junior School.

Mrs Beevers is currently the Academic Deputy Head at Dean Close Prep and came through an exceptional field in the interview.

Georgina Harford, who as the first teacher to offer Psychology at Rendcomb is retiring after 10 years. Her place will be taken by Mrs Jacqueline Noel who currently teaches Psychology and Sociology at Ribston Hall High School in Gloucester. Mrs Noel has an exceptional teaching record and has also been fully involved in the pastoral life of the School. Mrs Noel is also a qualified Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessor.

Taking over from James Stutchbury as new Head of Biology will be Mrs Natalie Johnston; she is an outstanding teacher of Biology and is



experienced in Department and School Leadership.

Georgina Harford
left

The Headmaster

Old Rendcombians will be surprised and saddened to learn that **Roland Martin** (1982-89) will be leaving Rendcomb in July 2015 to become Head of the City of London Freeman's School in Surrey, a school of 800 pupils with strong city links.

Although we knew that Roland's tenure would not be lengthy, we had hoped that it would be longer than four years. Roland Martin's enduring legacy will be the forthcoming construction of the Performing Arts Centre to be built in the Old Rectory grounds where the tennis

courts are. He has worked tirelessly to promote this project. He has also been a driving force in establishing the Development Office. Rendcomb, it appeared, was one of only a few Independent Schools not to have this facility which acts as a link between the College, the parents, Friends of Rendcomb and the Old Rendcombian Society.

Despite the demands on his time attending many varied committees, Roland has found time to give much support to the Old Rendcombian Society and its reunions, also arranging for year groups to return for the summer reunion and meeting Old Rendcombians on his travels abroad. Roland's devotion to all kinds of modern communication has resulted in Rendcomb receiving much wider publicity than in the past. He has also, of course, given energetic support to all kinds of activities in the school where his firm but sympathetic leadership has been much appreciated.

The Society sends its best wishes to Roland, Kerri, Jude and Jemima for their future, together with its thanks for all they have done for Rendcomb

Bill White



Roland and Kerri Martin

The conventional wisdom is that a Headmaster spends his first five years learning the trade, his next five years bearing rich fruit and instigating major changes and during his third quinquennium starts to hear murmurings about retirement planning, new opportunities elsewhere and the like. **Roland Martin** has kaleidoscoped a decade of achievement at Rendcomb into four hectic years. “A good head”, he says, “is a restless head”, and these have certainly been bustling times.

A Rendcombian himself (though arriving via housemastership at Eton), he quickly came to feel at home again in the Gloucestershire air - helped maybe by the proximity to Villa Park where ‘his team’ (the Claret and Blues) have enjoyed mixed fortunes during his tenure, providing occasional welcome relief from the rigours of office. He evinced a ready instinct for what needed changing to raise the school’s game. He knows what constitutes good teaching (he himself is an excellent English teacher), so he quickly re-energised the teacher appraisal process and he has made some fine new appointments to the staff. He also re-shaped his Leadership Team, instigated a tutorial system (winning around some initially reluctant staff and delighting many parents), and revamped most of the school’s statutory policies. Consequently our ISI Inspection Report last February was very good indeed. At the same time Roland has established many prep school links (strengthening enrolment), and brought the College to the brink of a capital campaign for a Performing Arts Centre. Nor should it be forgotten that throughout his final year he has, perforce, been Acting Chaplain, fulfilling this additional role with absolute conviction.

It must be evident to all that Roland is a prodigiously hard worker: sometimes almost prone to pushing himself too hard. His delightful wife, Kerri, will attest that he works an *absurdly long* day. As a Governor, however, I have found him at his very best dealing not with systems or strategy but with people. He will take endless pains resolving the difficult human situations, which find their way onto the Head’s desk. As a Rendcomb scholar himself, he respects most those students and colleagues who, through sheer effort or despite considerable disadvantage, exceed their own expectations; he has little time for the slackers and dodgers. Thanks to him, we are in extremely good shape, and he leaves exciting prospects for his successor, Robert Jones.

Roland leaves behind huge shoes to fill. Perhaps the greatest compliment we can pay him is that all who love Rendcomb and care for its future – to a man and woman – were devastated at the news of his imminent departure. During only his second year at the helm here, a columnist in the national press

described Roland as a “Head to watch”. As he moves on now to the City of London Freeman’s School, he still is. So he leaves with our warmest thanks and best wishes.

Rupert Lane

Chairman of the Governors

Headmaster of Rendcomb College Junior School



Martin and Lynne Watson joined the College in September 2003. Martin took over the then fledgling Junior School from Adrian Palmer and fashioned it into the success it is today, Lynne supporting him with her teaching skills in Maths and Geography.

One feature of Martin’s leadership has been to look out beyond the confines of Rendcomb. In his first year, pupils were already having artwork displayed in Cirencester and entering Cotswold Art competitions. In the 2004/05

academic year he facilitated the formation of the RCJPA which continues strongly today. He also oversaw the opening of the nursery facility.

Under Martin's care the Junior School has given generously of its time and ingenuity to raise money for many charitable causes.

During 2006 the Woodland Classroom was opened and this innovation above all others has made the Junior School stand out amongst its peers. The joy the young children experience while learning outside in the open air in Rendcomb's beautiful surroundings can not be understated and is testament to Martin and Lynne's championing of it.

The Junior School also enjoys a wide variety of sporting activities with U11 Rugby teams experiencing unbeaten seasons and winning the St. Francis 7's and the Pop Lacrosse team winning the National Prep School Championships.

During Martin's time, the Junior School also earned the Green Flag, an International Eco Award for outstanding achievement in Sustainable Development Education and Management continuously improving the environmental performance of the school and the wider community.

The Junior School continues to win further environmental awards from Early Years Education Magazine, The Woodland Trust and the Young People's Trust for the Environment.

With excellent ISI reports, the Junior School has thrived under Martin's leadership providing the pupils with the building blocks they need to prosper both academically and emotionally in the Senior School and beyond.

As a great team player, Martin has also brought humour to the role. It is rumoured that it has been known that before his Founder's Day speech his staff give him a selection of words, which he has to weave into it!

As for the future, Lynne is keen on carrying on creating her amazing mosaics and has recently been having some painting lessons. Martin has just heard that he is to be a volunteer at the Millennium Stadium at the Rugby World Cup this September. No doubt they will continue to travel the world.

We can only thank Martin and Lynne for their tremendous contribution to the life of the College and wish them well for the future.

Jane Gunner

Cirencester Hare Festival 2014

Throughout the spring and summer of 2014, Cirencester embraced the Hare Festival where 50 five foot high decorated hares were displayed around the town with a further 30 small hares in shop and business windows. All the hares were then rounded up and auctioned off at the end of October in aid of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.



Rendcomb College in its various guises was heavily involved in the success of the project. Rendcomb sponsored a large one, **Eostr**a and pupils decorated it under the supervision of Art teacher Emma Roffe. Emma also decorated one for Cain and Fuller Estate Agents in Cirencester.

Sophie Blackwell (Staff: 1990-2009) painted another

large one, **Mr. Harebushes** for past Rendcomb parents Will and Hilary Chester-Master at the Organic Farm shop, Richard and **Jane Gunner** (1975-1977) sponsored a large hare, Via Albatine through the Whiteway Workshops and personally a small one, **Chypitty Hop** which was for the Chyp Charity Shop, decorated by **Luke Gunner**



(1997-2005) and Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, (past College parent), had decorated the launch hare which had been displayed in Cirencester Parish Church throughout the festival.

On the night of the auction, the Rendcomb College Hare (Eostra) was bought by a past parent who after a little negotiation sold it on to a Junior School parent who donated it back to the school. Flora, decorated by Chris Beardshaw was bought for a friend by Lady Angus, widow of the late **Sir Michael Angus** (past Chairman of the Governors) and Grandmother of a current pupil of the College. It will be displayed in her garden, which is open annually to the public. Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen's hare was bought by a current pupil of the Junior School. In all the auction raised in excess of £113,000.00 the proceeds of which will go to for Gloucester Wildlife Trust to improve the green spaces in Cirencester.

HOT AIR BALLOONING



Having completed his theory examinations and practical flight exams in September 2014, **Peter Gregory** then had to wait until his 17th birthday in December to receive his pilot's license for hot air balloons. This made Peter the youngest pilot in the UK. Since then Peter has won an award and

hopes to continue this success throughout the year. Peter is aiming towards an entry for the Junior World Championships for Hot Air Ballooning to be held in



Lithuania in 2016. Peter is looking for sponsorship to help fund his goal. Peter Gregory is currently in the Lower 6th at Rendcomb. (6B to most ORs) Recent landings have been on the Rugby pitch outside **Jane Gunner's** back door and on **Richard Wills' farm**.

NM Generation at the Edinburgh Festival

Reviews of 'Faith'

Many readers will be aware that Rendcombians Luke Nixon and James Mudge achieved considerable success at the Edinburgh Festival during August 2014, when they staged their play 'Faith'. The play is based on the true story of Imber, a village in Wiltshire which was evacuated in 1943 and used as a training area for the army. It is still a 'ghost town' inside a military training area, and the church remains in working order. ORs were treated to a scene from the play at the last ORs meeting, and all enjoyed it hugely. The characters include the Reverend

(Tom Pethick), his son, David (Edward J C Davies), Captain Raymond (James Rose).

Phyllis (Olivia Witts), Bernie

(Alex Pugh),

Martha

(Kathryn Rew)

and her husband

Albert (Oliver

Birden). Roland

Martin told ORs

how much the

students had

gained from their experience.



STAFF RETIREMENTS

Julie Rogers (1987-2015). Sister Julie Rogers has retired from the College after thirty years of dedication to the welfare of the pupils at the school.



Canal trip 1991: Colin Morey, Pippa Wood, **Julie Rogers**, Alister Harris, Andrew Branston, Ean Branston, Andrew Martin, Charlie Allen, Francis Barton, Charles Webb.

Julie joined Rendcomb in 1987 as a 'matron' and, in the early days, she may well have put a young Roland Martin 'off games'. During her years of outstanding service to the College, she has seen 'sick bay' rebranded as the medical centre and her title change to college nurse, but her extraordinary levels of commitment and dedication to the Rendcomb community have remained unchanged. Julie's dedication to providing excellent medical and pastoral care has been formidable and generations of Rendcombians are greatly in her debt.

Julie's contribution has extended far beyond the confines of her basic job description, and the remarkable creativity and hours of hard work that she brought to designing and making costumes for countless Rendcomb productions is but one example of her wholehearted and selfless commitment to the life of the Rendcomb community.

Many of us will remember her reassuring presence 'up top' and I have lost count of the number of times that she has been complemented by society referees and visiting coaches for her caring and expert contributions on

match days. Having a dedicated medical professional on the touchline was a source of great comfort to all of the Rendcomb rugby coaches and it is by no means common on our circuit. I can recall one occasion (at a local school that shall remain nameless) when my opposite number, having expressed his regrets at the lack of medical support for a rugby match, attempted to reassure me by pointing out that at least a veterinarian was on hand.

Julie's support for rugby extended far beyond the geographical confines of 'top pitch'. One of the highlights of my time at Rendcomb was the unforgettable rugby tour to Canada on which, despite having much of her medical equipment confiscated at the airport, Julie not only managed to look after the boys but also myself and Mike Newby (I will leave the reader to decide which task presented the greater challenge). It was on this tour that some of us came to understand her passion for all things 'Dad's Army'.

Julie has been a true friend to all of us in the Rendcomb community over the years and I can certainly recall more than one occasion on which members of the **Slark** family have been extremely grateful for her 'out of hours' medical expertise and care.

For Julie, nothing has ever been too much trouble, she has been an outstanding servant of the College and she will be greatly missed. For many of us, she is irreplaceable. We wish her much happiness in retirement and one can only hope that the forthcoming film based on the classic TV series Dad's Army meets with her approval.

Michael Slark (Staff: 1991-2013)

As mentioned above, Julie has made a huge contribution to the Drama department in the College over the 28 years of her tenure.

From very early on she was mentioned in dispatches in the Rendcombian for the work she did on costumes but in 1990, she and **Judy White**, because of their medical knowledge, expanded this role, to giving advice and insight into characters when the College play was *Find Me* by Olwyn Wymark, a play based on a true story of Verity Taylor who was eventually committed to Broadmoor. Plays during the 1990s included *Oliver* directed by **John Tolputt** (Headmaster: 1987-99), *Twelfth Night* and *Bugsy Malone*. Of the latter an enthusiastic **Patrick Morgan** (1986-93) wrote that there should be nothing less than Oscars for her and **Penny Wood** for creating and finding so many authentic costumes which added much to the visual appeal of the show.

The range and breadth of plays for which she has had to source costumes is incredible from 1995's *Between Mouthfuls* by Alan Ayckburn and *The Bald Prima Donna* by Ionesco to open air performances of *Comedy of Errors* and *Money Mad* by Pete Benson, Playwright in residence.



1998 saw the Marriage of Figaro as **Diana Dodd's** first production, with a picture of the costumes featured on the back cover of the magazine. Julie continued into the next millennium providing costumes for such diverse plays as *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*, *Richard III* and *One flew over the cuckoo's nest* all in the same academic year.

When the Junior School opened, Julie extended her brief to include their productions as well, including the Otters' Nativity, Easter shows and the Junior end of year productions. Memorably making 60 tadpole costumes for

the Juniors out of green Ikea blankets and creating masterpieces for my first Junior production of *The Wind in the Willows* in 2005 when **Holly Phelps** (2001-2012), now studying Theatre at Birmingham University starred as Toad. The added challenge of the Junior Productions were the sheer vast numbers in the cast. She would always have to make over one hundred costumes, as many would require more than one costume change. She calmly took this in her stride, and astounded me with the quality and detail of all the costumes she produced for me over the years. Julie had an amazing ability of being able to recycle costumes from one show to another, often with the use of buckets of dylon.

However, probably her greatest challenge was in 2007 when costumes were needed for Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*. The billboard sized photos, which still adorned the main landing, are testament to her triumph. Julie's skill and dedication will be very much missed.

Amanda Brealy (Staff: 2004 -)

James Stutchbury



U15A v St. Edwards, March 2006

Henry Evans, Dominic Stevens, Mark Richardson, Tom North, Harry Homan-Green, Ed Jefferson, Harley Phelps, Ross Sampson, James Stutchbury
Front row l-r: Andrew Forshaw, Richard Ashton, Alex Tennant-Bell, Ed Brierley, Michael Lockhart



James with Ernest Neal, The Badger Man in 1990

There are not many teachers who would cheerfully put-up with the constant chirp of a classroom full of crickets, and occasional escaping tree frogs (which would appear unexpectedly around the lab), or give up the peace of breaktime for a pupil who always had interesting questions to ask whilst handling various herptiles; but James Stutchbury was such a person.

Mr Stutchbury was the sort of person who breathed enthusiasm for his teaching, and who was always happy to engage in conversations about biodiversity and zoology in the wider world, and about that sabbatical to go and continue research he was always planning. Somehow Mr Stutchbury managed not to only maintain order even in classes who had only chosen biology as what they presumed to be an option, but also to enthuse and interest his pupils with research that stretched pass the bounds of an often "boring syllabus".

Thinking back to Biology classes I can't help remembering the bleached skull resting on the desk, and the enthusiasm that a "visiting skeleton" that my father had bought as a student evoked in James, especially given its rather less sterile appearance.... The lab itself was full of interesting things, from various primate skeletons, an articulated plastic skeleton (frequently wearing a tie, labcoat, or other accessories) and a large collection of plants, all of which helped demonstrate the diversity of the natural world!

As I sit in a Tropical Biology conference I can't help but reflect back with great fondness on the patience and enthusiasm of James, which undoubtedly helped me get where I am today. James was also very much a field researcher, and a keen sports man who evidentially really enjoyed being outside for any reason.

I know I will not be alone in saying that James Stutchbury will be a very difficult act to follow, and will be sorely missed by all those at Rendcomb, for his humour, enthusiasm and ability to not only teach, but to inspire and to generously give his time for anyone with questions, or ideas to discuss. I wish James all the very best for his retirement, and hope he will finally get the time to act on his research ideas for that long planned sabbatical

Alice C. Hughes (1996-2003)

ATBC Asia-Pacific Secretary & ATBC Capacity Building Committee
Chair Associate Professor
Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, Chinese Academy of Science

Rendcomb clay shooting has gone from strength to strength largely due to **James Stutchbury** and his able and equally enthusiastic musketeers, **Mr Cairns** and **Mr Robbins**. For the last fifteen years The College teams have been placed in the top ten out of 60 schools nationally. This is a remarkable achievement driven by superb coaching and an underlying passion by James to encourage new skills in pupils that they will take with them for the rest of their lives: An individual performance yet part of a team. Inspired by his own hand I would like to say the following on behalf of all of those us who have been privileged to have been taught and coached by James. “Just occasionally, very occasionally, along comes a man who just seems to get the best out of all those around him. You Mr Stutchbury are that man, there is no doubt that Rendcomb staff and pupils that you have watched and helped through their daily lives acknowledge this too, indeed it is the case, you are truly a vintage person !”
The Phelps Family. (**Harley** (2002-09),
Holly (2001-2011), **Adam** (1980-82), **Jenny née Watson** (1978-80))



Adam Phelps (1980-82), Harley Phelps (2002-09) and Charlie Stutchbury (2001-2008) at the National school championships in 2013.

Jane Stutchbury



Yukiko Haneda writes from Japan:

I was in the 3rd year at Rendcomb College from 1995-96. I stayed this one year at Park House under the care of Mr. & Mrs. Stutchbury. Also I took Mrs. Stutchbury's EFL class. Since then I am back in Japan, using British English for work. I still say "What do you fancy for your lunch?" People laugh and say "You sound very British." Of course it was Mrs. Stutchbury who taught me British English (as opposed to American English!).

The biggest memory of Mrs. Stutchbury is in one of the lessons in my EFL class. Mrs. Stutchbury asked me "What age do you think is old?" Then I said "30". I do not know how old she was at that time. She was surprised and so shocked at what a 16-year-old girl said. Now I am 36 years old and I feel young as ever. I was wrong and feel sorry for what I said 20 years ago. I hope she does not remember that!

Staying in Rendcomb changed my life very much and has given me so many wonderful things. Many thanks to Mr. Wood for giving me the opportunity to write this message in the Old Rendcombian Newsletter. I am pleased that I

found him on Facebook. It is amazing to keep in touch with my old school teachers from 20 years ago and so nice to look back at how life in Rendcomb was.

Charlotte Egan (née Bohlken) writes: Mr & Mrs Stutchbury were my houseparents at Park House from Sept. 1994 until Jun. 1996 during my time at Rendcomb.

Originally, I was only supposed to spend a year in England and then return to life back in Germany, but after a 'tearful' and seemingly hopeless first couple of weeks, I soon settled into British boarding school life and begged my parents to let me stay for the whole 2 years of sixth form. Much of that was down to Mr & Mrs Stutchbury!

Whilst I was desperately trying to get used to living in a foreign country, they carefully - and often from 'behind the scenes' - ensured that I was not only OK, but making progress and beginning to find my feet. They never crowded me or made me feel 'singled out', but rather just 'part of it' and therefore settling in became much easier.

The way Mrs Stutchbury took care of the younger girls (and all their hamsters and gerbils too!!!) was lovely and a great comfort to them when homesickness got the better of them.

She also was very tolerant and committed - and believe me, I put that to the test! Mrs Stutchbury had to wake me up at 6am at the end of (every!) term, when the taxi driver had rung her doorbell, because I had overslept... I made my airport link every time - thank you!

As for Mr Stutchbury - he often insisted on watching Formula 1 with whoever was around in the common room at the time - the international competition often became alive if any of us German girls were about...

He was definitely keeping the Park House ladies in line, but despite being firm, he was fair and would always sport a jolly twinkle in his eye alongside his trademark tweed jacket, checked shirts and corduroy trousers.

Mr & Mrs Stutchbury - how you managed to take care of all of the girls at Park House as well as your daughter and son, teaching and all of life's other commitments remains a mystery to me!

But I am truly grateful for all your dedication, support and care you gave us whilst I was part of your 'Park House Family' - thank you! I wish you all the very best for the new adventures you will embark on and take good care of yourselves! Enjoy these years to come with all your might!

OR TRAVEL BURSARY

Delia Rich's trip to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya – July 2014

On a sunny Tuesday morning I made my way to Heathrow Airport to board a flight to Kenya. I didn't quite know what or who would greet me on the other side. I arrived in Nairobi to clear blue skies feeling rather apprehensive about the four hour drive to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. My driver, Sammy was a very friendly man and made a great tour guide! Just looking out of the window of the car made me realise how different this experience was going to be compared to my 12 months working at a school in Australia.



Zebras grazing on the savannah at sunset

As we drove through the security gates into Lewa, I was feeling excited about what was on the other side of the fence. The driver turned right and immediately all I could see before me was vast savannah. Giraffes, zebra and gazelles were roaming free and I simply couldn't believe my eyes.

After being eaten alive throughout supper by mosquitoes I thought I'd do best to get an early night in preparation for the weeks ahead. After that, I spent the weekends at Lewa with a guard who was in charge of checking on the lions in the Conservancy. He used to come and pick me up at 6am and drive me through the savannah in his jeep. This meant I saw an incredible amount of game and got really close to the lions, which was just amazing. I was even able to walk among some of the baby rhino who were being

looked after in a special enclosure. I had to pinch myself to make sure it was all real!

The first Monday came and this meant it was time for me to head to the village where I would spend the week days. I stayed with the Head Teacher of Rugusu primary school where I worked as a volunteer. Her name was Katherima and her daughter was called Perpetua. They were both very kind and welcoming and fed me far too well! Perpetua and I became good friends and she was very interested in the clothes I wore and what my life was like back in England.



A little girl called Sambi who lived in the same compound as the Head Teacher Katherima

Katherima's house consisted of one room with a curtain down the middle to separate the cooking and

living areas from her bedroom. The lavatory was a hole in the ground and the shower was an empty space with a bucket. This was very different to all

the mod cons I had been used to at home and while travelling in Australia and the Far East.

It was Faith Riunga, the Lewa Education Manager who arranged my stay at Lewa and who enabled me to go on some of the additional educational trips. Faith is an incredible lady with a very high work load and responsibility for a wide variety of educational projects. The primary schools form only a small part of this. I am eternally grateful to Faith for her advice and guidance.

Most days I caught a mattatu (a small public minibus) to the school and then walked for 20 minutes down a rutted dirt track. The first day I arrived at the school the children were shocked to see me. I was one of the first white people to do voluntary work at the school. Most European visitors are tourists who are there to see the game. It took a couple of days for the children to warm to me and realise that I was just a normal human being. They would touch and pinch my skin to try and see if it felt the same as theirs, but their favourite thing was to stroke my hair! The children soon became used to me and were always pleased to see me. The children all wore a uniform, with dark blue shirts and a burgundy shorts or a pinafore dress. They were very proud of their uniforms!

Many of the teachers did not seem to warm to me and did not speak to me a great deal. Their local language was Swahili and their English was sometimes limited. They remained wary of me throughout my stay and unlike Perpetua, did not really ask me any questions about myself or England. In retrospect, I don't believe they meant to be unfriendly, I think they were just rather scared of me because I essentially represented the unknown. They were pleased though that I was able to take some lessons for them!

During my time at the school I taught English lessons to year 4 and 5 classes as well as PE to year 6 and 7 classes. I also spent quite a bit of time in the nursery. I was just amazed that children as young as 3 were expected to walk along dangerous tracks by themselves, in order to get to school. I became fond of one small boy called Mounenne. He used to shout 'muzungu' meaning 'white person' at me, whenever I walked into their classroom. The classes ranged from a 'small' group of 30 to a normal sized class of 50 children. I did however go into one class where 80 children squeezed in to the same room. During break and lunchtime the children would form large

queues and stand in total silence to receive their food. Morning snack was a mug of African porridge and lunch was rice and beans. The children would tell me how much they loved the food and for some this would be all they ate for the day.

I also spent some time visiting local areas with the Lewa Education Department. We went into schools to teach young girls how to make re-useable sanitary towels. Many of the local people don't have access to such things and others simply can't afford them. The staff explained that during menstruation, some girls stop going to school because they are embarrassed. In some communities they also use dry cow manure to try and stop the bleeding but this can cause complicated infections. I found this a very humbling experience.

One of my most daunting experiences during my stay was attending a big prize giving day for the whole region. There were over 1000 people there, including pupils and teachers and it was an incredible occasion. Some schools attended to give cultural dance displays whilst others attended for some of their pupils to receive prizes. There were also speeches in Swahili,



Mounenne taking great delight in wearing my sunglasses

which everyone listened to very quietly. In some ways, although very memorable, it was an uneasy time for me. I was the only white person there and I felt very conscious of all eyes being on me. My lasting memory is of having to leave slightly early and of everyone's eyes turning with me as I left.....

On my last day at school I asked the Headteacher if for a treat, we could drive home 3 young girls who lived close to where I was staying. Each day they would walk for half an hour along a busy road to get to the school. They were aged 4, 5 and 7. When we got to the Head Teacher's house I walked with the 3 girls for another 10 minutes to reach the place where they lived. They stayed with their Grandma in a 2 room house. The girls all slept on the floor and the Grandma in her bed. These girls had lost their mother when they were young and their father was an alcoholic who didn't want to have anything to do with them. With no income of her own, 90 year old Grandma was left to look after them. This meant that their clothes were all donated and their school fees were paid through scholarships. I hope one day to be able to sponsor these girls to enable them to continue their education into secondary school.

My experience at Rugusu Primary School and my time in Kenya taught me a lot. I realise how fortunate I am to have been a pupil at Rendcomb College, where the teachers are so caring and dedicated and where each child is encouraged to achieve their potential..

I wish to thank the Old Rendcombian Society for supporting me in completing this trip of a lifetime. I already know that one day I shall return to Lewa and I hope that my family can come with me.



**LEWA
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inscribed on the World heritage List in 1997

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Edward Brealy's (2001-2013) 5 weeks in Ladakh

I was fortunate enough to have an experience of a lifetime by being selected to undertake an expedition with the British Exploring Society's (BE) expedition to Ladakh, a high altitude desert due to the Himalayas' rain shadow. BE is the oldest charity (founded 1932) to undertake such expeditions and has such notable patrons as Sir David Attenborough, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Bear Grylls, Kenton Cool and Hannah White.

There were 40 of us, ranging in age from 16 to mid 40s, from all over the country and from varying backgrounds. Accompanying us were several from universities

who were undertaking research for their studies (as well as undertaking training to be future Leaders of expeditions) and there were several doctors and other specialists – one of whom was none other than Old Rendcombian **Martin Stitt** (1979-1986) who was not only a Deputy Chief Leader but also the photography specialist - it's a small world!

After a brief stop-off at Delhi we flew to Leh, the capital of Ladakh in Northern India, also known as "Little Tibet". This is one of the most sparsely populated parts of the world with a density of only $3/\text{km}^2$. Ladakh literally translates as the "land of high passes" for good reason as Leh is relatively low at 11,500 feet and we were eventually going to trek to a height of 19,500 feet. After a couple of days in Leh acclimatising to the altitude we took a week gaining 300m in altitude each day to stave off altitude sickness. This is a very real danger as one of the girls later developed HAPE, which is a very severe form of the condition. She suddenly fell seriously ill whilst we were on top of a glacier, this just shows how physically hard it is but also a huge team builder for the group; we took several hours to help her down, taking it in turns to support her and finding the best way over or through the





ice fields - the worst that I ever had were headaches. I was so lucky that the people I was with were amazing and very supportive.

To say that Ladakh is a beautiful place is certainly an understatement and it is not just the mountains and valleys which will last long into the memory but also the people and their culture.

The research work my group undertook was geology, this meant that we would walk to rock outcrops and study their composition and also its cleavage, this means the size of the crystals and the shape of them e.g.



hexagonal or rectangular. We also studied the strike and dip of the rock, which shows you the angle of the rock, and the way the rock is facing compared to the degree of north. After going to around 15 different outcrops we made a cut section of the composition of the rock type in the Zara Valley.

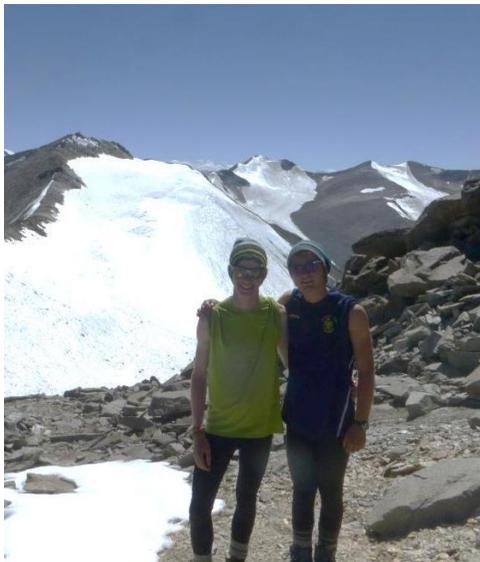
During the expedition I also gained the John Muir Award for Environmental Awareness and Conservation as well as completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and Residential components.

The Ladakhi culture is a very colourful one and there are a lot of prayer flags covering all over the streets. We also managed to go up to a stupa which is a kind of temple; when you got up to the stupa it had a massive Buddha, probably the height of a rugby post which loomed over the town of Leh. When you walk around the stupa you are only allowed to walk clockwise otherwise it is bad luck. The food in Ladakh is like a normal English Indian but a lot blander.

There were several challenges during the trip – as you can imagine they were mostly to do with the altitude, terrain and the trekking in high temperatures (35+ °C) whilst there were sub-zero temperatures at night; however one of the more unusual ones for me was going to the toilet because I've never had to

squat down and go for a nature toilet stop or even worst squat down in a boiling hot metal container with just a hole in the ground to work with - it's difficult trust me!

The physical impact the expedition had on me was most obvious once I returned: I had lost 8kg or 10% of my body mass and was the fittest I have ever been – soon after returning, during a fitness test as part of my Hartpury Sports Coaching Course I showed so much more stamina than my peers, going for at least 20% longer than the others!



One of the best moments was when we got up to the top of a mountain, which was at an altitude of 5943m (19,500'). It was one of the most physically and mentally challenging things I have ever done because you just felt like you are moving so slowly, fighting for oxygen, and the peak never seemed to get any closer. The other was a humbling moment when we were bivvying out under the stars (what a 'most excellent canopy') and watching the shooting stars streaking across the immenseness of the firmament.



I would recommend a British Exploring Society expedition to other Rendcombian because it is an incredible experience and the memories will live with you forever. It is also a great thing to put on your CV for University applications because it shows that you can go outside your comfort zone; you needed a great deal of teamwork to get over the challenges. It also pushes you in some aspects that you wouldn't be able to do in your everyday life. Another reason I would recommend this trip to other Rendcombian is because the views and scenery are

incredible, just the size of the mountains make you feel like an ant amongst them – a truly humbling experience.

I would like to thank the Old Rendcombian Society so much for sponsoring me so that I could invest in some quality gear such as a top of the range down sleeping bag, down jacket and walking boots (B2 suitable for crampons) – when on expedition 'on top of the world' you need to know that you are going to be warm enough and that your feet are going to be comfortable and secure!

Postscript: I have since had five offers from universities to study an Honours degree in Outdoor Leadership and Adventure Education starting this September.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



Model of the Performing Arts Centre

CRICKET – 29th June 2014



RUGBY REUNION – Sunday 7th December 2014



Back row l-r: Joe Scott (2001-08), Harley Phelps (2002-09), John Gotley (1973-78), Duncan White (1976-81), Sam White (guest), Max Birden (2007-10), Eddie Geerah (2007-14), Chris Barefoot (2002-04), Tom Geerah (2005-10), James Brittain (2001-10), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004)

Front row l-r: Richard Collins (2001-2008), Adam Phelps (1980-82), Steve Jones (1988-95), Dan Geerah (2007-2014), James Taylor (2008-14)

Winning team: Ralph Aspin, JohnGotley, Duncan White, Richard Collins, Adam Phelps, Steve Jones, Joe Scott, Chris Barefoot.



Back row l-r: Tristan Stevens (2006-13), Will Scott (2006-13), Toby Harris (2005-07), Alex Gotley (guest), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Tom Geerah (2005-2010), Rory Clark (2003-10), Max Birden (2007-12), Jack Pethick (2006-2013), Charlie Lamble (2011-13), Ed Thomason (2005-10)

Front row: Richard Collins (2001-08), Lance Baynham (2003-13), Ali Sinfield (2006-13), Dan Gregory (2007-14), Louis Mernagh (2007-14), Alex Tatara-Mills (2004-14), Edward Breal (pupil), Steve Brown, (2004-09) James Brittain (2001-10). Results: ORs v 1st XI = 4-0, ORs v 2nd XI = 5-2

DESTINATION OF 6A LEAVERS 2014

Howard Auster	Classical Music, Leeds College of Music
Oliver Birden	Marketing, Plymouth University
Jiyao (Jeffrey) Chen	Mathematics with Finance and Accounting, Queen Mary's University London
Zexin (Peter) Chen	Biochemistry, University College London
Joshua Cropper	Economics and Management. Loughborough University
Yannis Dimopoulos	Acting - Foundation, Regent's College London
Razak Farley	Real Estate, Westminster
Daniel James Gregory	Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics, Warwick
Haoyang (Dorothy) Guo	Accounting and Finance, Exeter University
Thomas Hansel	3D Digital Design and Animation, Greenwich
Lianyu (York) He	Mechanical Engineering, Warwick
Maggie Hyde	Illustration / Art and Design, Maryland Institute College of Art
Will Li	Accounting and Finance, Nebraska USA
Yuan (Malong) Li	Economics, Dundee
Hongsheng (Danny) Lin	Engineering (Mechanical), University College London
Bliss McFarlane	Journalist, Southampton Solent
Luke Nixon	Theatre and Drama, South Wales
Qingqing (Chilli) Qian	Hospitality Business Management, University College Birmingham
Kirsty Robinson	Psychology, Nottingham Trent
Jinxia (Shelly) Zheng	Chemistry and Mechanical Chemistry, Warwick

ORs Leavers 2012

Katherine Louise Daly	English/History of Art (Equal) York University
Megan Catherine Mulhall	Event Management, Cardiff Metropolitan

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