



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2017

43rd Edition

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 3rd July 2016 the following officers were elected:

President:	Bill White (Staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, (Cheltenham), Glos GL54 3JG Tel: 01451 860943
Chairman:	Richard Tudor (1973-80)
Vice-Chairman:	Jessica Weston (1998-2005)
Secretary:	Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Glos GL7 7BA T: 01285 658627 E: secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk
Treasurer:	Claire Germaine (1990-93)
School representative:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Nigel Powell (1967-74) Neil Lumby (1968-73) Edward Thomason (2005-10, Staff: 2011-) Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff: 1976-2009) Harley Phelps (2002-09) Iain Whittaker (1980-87) Hamish Wilson (1971-78)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG T: 01296 582741 E: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk



Colin (Bill) Franklyn Bailey (OR 1936-39) to whose memory this edition of the newsletter is dedicated.

Colin Franklyn Bailey (1936-39) was born in April 1923 at Whitley Bay in Northumberland and died at his home in Canterbury, Victoria, Australia on 29th February 2016 just weeks before his 93rd birthday. His family sends in this tribute:

Colin acquired the name Bill in the army from a popular song “Won’t You Come Home Bill Bailey” and it stuck. His friends, family and colleagues all referred to him as Bill. On being introduced, strangers often began to sing the first few lines of this song. Bill dealt with this with his usual composure and patience. And so, I will refer to him as ‘Bill’ as I write this tribute.

After Dame Allan’s school in Newcastle that Bill attended as a small boy, he was sent to Newcastle Grammar and from there, at the age of thirteen, to Rendcomb College. It was a long journey by train for the boy and his bicycle, on which he completed the journey from Cheltenham to Cirencester. Bill had very happy memories of Rendcomb and often talked of his admiration for the headmaster Mr. Denis Lee-Browne. Of all that he enjoyed at Rendcomb there were two things that he spoke of as learning at school that he valued in his professional life, his leisure time and in his retirement. They were working as part of a team and the pleasure in practical tasks such as: designing, making and restoring furniture, taking machines apart and putting them back together, repairing clocks, cars and bicycles and in his later years designing making and mending toys for our grandchildren.

When the War broke out Bill’s father took up his commission and returned to the army. That was the end of boarding school and a job was found for Bill in the Lloyd’s bank in Monkseaton. Banking was not for Bill and he joined The Young Soldier’s Brigade. Later he was sent to Bovington where he trained as a radio technician in The Royal Armoured Corps. His first posting was to North Africa. Towards the end of the war, The Royal Tank Regiment was sent to Italy to clean up as the Germans retreated. Bill was in one of the assaults on Monte Cassino and later, somewhere north of Rome, he was badly wounded. He was repatriated and after a year in hospital at Hexham was discharged with the rank of Sergeant and with Exemplary Military Conduct and the Africa Star Medal.

After the war, Bill spent a time feeling aimless and confused. He took a job as a chauffeur for the headmaster of a prep school. The Headmaster suggested that Bill might train as a teacher. He found himself at Drake Hall enrolled in a one year, pressure-cooked, teacher training course. It was here that he met Joan Brain, his future wife. They both began teaching in London. He then applied to the London School of Economics and was

accepted. But after a term Bill could not see any future for himself as an economist and he and Joan decided to emigrate to Australia.

They were offered a job in a one teacher school seventeen miles from Hobart, a remote placement in those times! On the strength of his acceptance into the London School of Economics Bill sought and was offered a place at Sydney University. So Bill and Joan moved to Sydney. Despite the rigours of study, Bill took all sorts of work; taxi-driving, telegram delivery and factory jobs to support Joan and his now growing family. He graduated from Sydney University with honours and was awarded The D'Arcy Memorial Prize for Government. The family then moved to Geelong in Victoria to take up a job with the Ford Company. Not a company man, Bill resigned and accepted an appointment to Mentone Grammar School. So, the family moved across the bay to live close to the school.

A migrant family, even with all that combined intelligence and energy, Bill and Joan suffered from the lack of family support, of friends and familiar places. They separated and Bill accepted a role as housemaster at Trinity Grammar. He often said, "Trinity was like coming home for me." Perhaps Trinity felt a little like Rendcomb because he settled there and made some treasured friends. At Trinity, Bill taught Economics. He established a Drama Society and The Trinity Grammar Ski Club. He is remembered for his innovative work as Trinity's first school counsellor and developed the school's vocational guidance service. In the midst of all this innovation, Bill had completed a degree in Psychology at Melbourne University graduating with honours.

Bill met his second wife Anita at Melbourne University. They were married in 1965 and Bill's daughter Alice was born in 1969. In these years, Bill became a student counsellor at Monash University and was actively involved in the development of counselling as an acknowledged branch of psychology and was a founding member of The Australian Psychological Society. In these years, he endured the searing loss of his eldest son Paul. It was a sorrow that remained with him for the rest of his life. His second marriage foundered under the weight of this grief.

In 1968, Bill had been appointed to the very new La Trobe University to establish a Student Counselling Service there. A colleague describes the service as a place of "openness where one was encouraged to expand and explore." Students and staff found help and guidance in this welcoming environment. It was at La Trobe that Bill met his wife Kate. They were married in 1986 and celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in 2016.

After 20 years Bill retired and was awarded The Vice Chancellor's Medal for his work in the university. In retirement Bill set up a part-time private practice, in a country town near to where he and his wife Kate had bought a holiday cottage. Much of his work was with distressed Vietnam Veterans who had settled in this area because of cheap rentals. In 2002 Bill finally retired from his work as a psychologist. He took up the study of French and with Kate joined a group "Reading Shakespeare". His extrovert side came out to play and he proved himself a fine reader and amused the members of the group with the variety of accents that he could imitate.

Bill endured two bouts of cancer in his last years. He dealt with these illnesses with courage and stoicism. He died on 29th February 2016 with all his Australian family around him. He is deeply missed by his wife Kate, his sister Rosie, his sons Nicholas and Peter, his daughter Alice, their partners Wendy, Josette and Adrian and his much-loved grandson Otis.

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Colin (Bill) Franklyn Bailey as his legacy to the Society has helped to pay for it. Bill left the money in thanks for keeping him in touch with his old school and it seems very fitting that it should go towards the magazine he so enjoyed. The Society is very grateful to his family for supporting this.

Ed.

ADVENT SERVICE

Following the success of previous OR Advent Carol Services, the ORs have been asked if they would like to take part in the end of term informal Carol Service for the boarders, many of whom are international students, at 6.30pm on Sunday 10th December 2017. Before the Society is able to say "yes" and therefore set the ball rolling, we would need to have an indication of how many ORs would be interested in taking part.

If you are one of those, please contact Claire Germaine through the website at: **secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk**

**The Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting
of The Old Rendcombian Society
held at Rendcomb College in Room E1 on Sunday 3rd July 2016**

Present: Jane Gunner née Watson (1975-77), Claire Germaine (1990-93), Bill White (Staff: 1961-97), R. G. Pycroft (1964-70), D. J. Green (1961-69), Bob Edy (1959-67, Staff: 2015-), Colin Burden (Staff: 1963-97), Alisdair Wilson (1969-76), Hamish Wilson (1971-78), Julian Comrie (1946-54), Nigel Powell (1967-74), Antony Simmins (1974-81), Paul Curtis Hayward (1970-77), Mike Miles (1943-50), David Williams (1966-71), Richard Tudor (1973-80).

1. Apologies: Chris Wood (1965-1971, Staff: 1976-09), Iain Whittaker (1980-87), Alex Breally (1982-87, Staff: 1994-), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Raymond Lawrence (1942-45), Ed Thomason (2005-10, Staff: 2011-), Jess Weston (1998-2005), Neil Lumby (1968-73).

2. The minutes of the 82nd AGM held on Sunday 28th June 2015 were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising out of the Minutes held on Sunday 28th June 2015

The meeting had delegated to the committee to find an appropriate way to spend the money donated to the Old Rendcombian Society by the family of the late Colin Hitchcock (1971-78) in his memory.

It had been the intention of the committee to benefit the IT department but the Headmaster had reported that the pupils had won a major competition resulting in a large financial prize so the IT department was well resourced. He therefore suggested that the money could be used to modernise the Biology lab, which had not been refurbished by the grant from the Dulverton Trust that had funded the refurbishment of all the other labs.

The committee had agreed to granting £8,000 of the donation towards the upgrading of the lab. The Headmaster had agreed that the lab would be dedicated to Colin and that once it had been completed there would be an opening to which Colin's contemporaries and his family could attend.

The remaining £2,000 would be used to future proof the Society's archives, which Nigel Powell was working hard to organise and preserve.

The meeting endorsed the committee's decision unanimously.

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

In the absence of the Treasurer, David Williams, the Hon. Auditor presented the accounts. He explained how the travel bursary had carried over money from the previous year but 2015 and 2016 averaged out to £1,500 per year.

The biggest expenditure change was due to the newsletter. Jane Gunner explained that this was because while both this year and last year it had crossed the standard second-class stamp rate, last year the College had included something in the envelope so had paid half. She went on to say that such was the popularity of the newsletter and the enormous amount of material provided by ORs it was likely that costs would continue to be dominated by the postage. The committee would try to ensure that newsletters sent abroad would only go to fully paid-up members. David Williams said he would be happy to receive it as a pdf and it was explained that the newsletter was on the website almost immediately after the hard copy had been posted out. Anyone not wanting to receive the hard copy could acquire it this way but the response to the committee showed that most people wanted the hard copy. It was also felt that it was about preserving an historical record.

(i) It was proposed by Claire Germaine and seconded by Colin Burden that subscription should be increased to £7.50/term from September 2017. This was agreed unanimously.

It was proposed by Julian Comrie, seconded by Claire Germaine and agreed unanimously that the accounts be adopted.

5. Nominations for Committee Members

Tommy Lait and Dominic Sharman were standing down from the committee.

(i) It was proposed by Colin Burden, seconded by Bill White and agreed unanimously that Ed Thomason, Hamish Wilson, Nigel Powell should join the committee

(ii) Chris Wood was retiring as treasurer and David Williams had agreed to take the post until a volunteer could be found. Claire Germaine suggested that she might be prepared to take on the role once she had talked to Chris Wood about it. In the meantime, it was agreed that David Williams would act as Treasurer.

Bill White proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Wood who had joined the committee in 1980, been Chairman for 5 years from 1985, then school representative and then took up the post of Treasurer in 1996, a post he had now held for 20 years. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Chris expressing the Society's thanks.

(iii) It was proposed by Michael Miles, seconded by Hamish Wilson that Bill White should continue on as President. It was agreed unanimously.

6. Travel Bursary

The committee proposed that the Travel Bursary should be £2,000 for 2017. This sum was to be made up of the usual £1,500, a £250 donation and £250 from a 2016 award not taken up.

This was proposed by Michael Miles, seconded by Tony Simmins and agreed unanimously

7. Any other business

Colin Burden reported on the Friends of Rendcomb and explained how money raised goes towards supporting pupils who are having some sort of family crisis and might not be able to complete their GCSEs or A levels without it.

He also explained that the 1920 Club was those who paid £25/month towards what was hoped would eventually be a full bursary. Discussions were ongoing as to how the Friends of Rendcomb would fit into the College's overall development and fundraising strategy.

Bill White expressed his thanks to the OR committee for all that they did.

8. There was a unanimous vote of thanks to the College
Meeting ended at 12.59pm.

84th Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 84th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 2nd July 2017 at Rendcomb College at 12.15pm.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 83rd AGM held on 3rd July 2016
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Nominations for Hon. Secretary
All proposed/seconded nominations to the Secretary by 20th June 2017
6. Travel Bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

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)
Edward Thomason

Rugby: Harley Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com

Hockey: Harley Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com

Girls' sports: Jess Weston, 07969 177437, jess_weston@hotmail.com
Holly Phelps, hollyfphelps@gmail.com

Cricket: Harley Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com

OR Reunion 2017 & Future Sports Fixtures

Sunday 2nd July 2017 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: donations to OR Society gratefully received. Staff retirement presentations.
2.30 pm	Tours of the buildings
	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

Alex Brealy and **Iain Whittaker** are coordinating the reunion on Sunday 2nd July for those who left 30 years ago in 1987. If you would like to be involved please e-mail Alex via the OR website via secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk

40 YEARS ON

Chris Pulford is coordinating the reunion on Sunday 2nd July for those who left 40 years ago in 1977. If you would like to be involved, please e-mail him.

Tag Rugby Tournament: Saturday 9th December 2017

Hockey: Saturday 24th March 2018 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 1st July 2018 (provisional)

All provisional dates and those not listed here will be shown on oldrendcombian.org.uk/reunions as soon as they are agreed. As well as being available on the Facebook page.

OR REUNION – 3rd July 2016

More than seventy ORs and their guests returned to Rendcomb for the 2016 summer reunion. ORs spanned the generations with the most senior having arrived in 1943 while the youngest left in 2015.

The weather was glorious and the *joie de vivre* of the **40th anniversary** leavers who made up nearly half of the attendees made it a lovely day for everyone. Thanks to **Charlie Hussey** (1974-76), **Tessa Hicks** (née Wolferstan) and **Des Knox** (1970-75) for encouraging them all back. **Ed Thomason** (2005-10, Staff 2011-), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09) and **Hannah Boydell** (Staff: 2014-) had done a great job of bringing back a throng of cricketers and although cricket was delayed until after lunch because of a water-logged pitch, they presented a quintessentially British scene in their whites on top pitch in the sunshine. Even the sky performed with a multitude of fluffy white clouds.

The lunch was very well attended and the presentation and thanks to **Diana Dodd** (Staff: 1997-2016), who was retiring after 19 years, was heartfelt. Afterwards group photos were taken and then **Jane Gunner** (1975-77), **Bill White** (Staff: 1961-97), **Colin Burden** (1966-97) and **Amanda Brealy** (Staff: 1994-) conducted tours around the buildings.



The group visited the Old Rectory, Park House and the Science block where ORs were shown the Biology lab that will be refurbished thanks to the donation in the memory of the late **Colin Hitchcock** (1971-78) by his family.

There followed tea, which was served in the pavilion Up Top and such was the enjoyment of the day that many lingered in the sunshine. In keeping with tradition, they then adjined to the newly re-opened Bathurst Arms at North Cerney

Thanks must go to the College for hosting us once again.



1976 leavers

Front row left to right Richard Hudson, Robert Stroud, Nick Longworth, Owen Davies, Al Bennett, Tim Nicholas, Robbie Barrett, Martin Griffiths, Nige Bradbury. Second row: Rob Weston, Pete Sayers, Tim Ingles, Martyn Pitt, Tim Longworth, Phil Gready, Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan), Jacqui Sayers (née Crowhurst), Clare Gardner-Medwin, Charlie Hussey. Third row: Stu Honeyball, Ian Read, Pete Walton, Chris Pulford. Back row: Andy Medhurst, Rob Sherratt, Simon Wormleighton, Alisdair Wilson, Hamish Wilson, Paul Curtis-Hayward, Kari Barnard-Weston, Sarah Oughton, Phil Everatt, Lucy Brain.

REUNIONS



Penny Jones (1976-78) wrote to **Chris Wood** back in May 2016:

This year's newsletter could not have arrived on a more timely day - as the postman dropped the envelope in our box, ten ORs were sitting in our garden having coffee. Present were **Sheila Lee** (née Greenfield) (1976-78), **Deborah Harrison** (1976-78), **Treve Evans** (1971-78), **Tim Parfitt** (1971-78), **Jade Sinclair** (1972-78), **Andy Mackonochie** (1971-78), **Nige**

Taylor (1971-78), **Gray Moore** (1971-78) and, of course, **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78) and myself. **Joe Watson** (1971-78) dropped by shortly afterward combining a reunion with motor mechanic duties on **Jade's** Discovery. We had a fabulous time regressing in an instant to our schooldays - the boys going back considerably further than the girls of course. We convened on the Friday night, which turned into Saturday morning in a blink of an eye - we went to bed at 5 am! We have been pretty good at communication since our 30-year get-together in 2008 and we have vowed to continue on an annual basis with sub-groups in between if we can.

There's talk about visiting **Treve** in Dubai and **Sheila** has given us a choice of Ireland or Portugal.



Richard Collins (2001-08), **James Bladen** (2001-06), **Charlie Stutchbury** (2001-08), **Mark Gunner** (2001-08) and **Joe Scott** (2001-08) went camping in the Chilterns in September 2016. A brave and intrepid thing to do given the trials and tribulations **Richard**, **Charlie** and **Mark** experienced doing DofE Gold almost exactly 10 years ago! April 2016 saw **Richard**, **Charlie** and **Mark** cheer on **Joe** when he ran the London Marathon.



Gluttons for punishment, **Charlie**, **Joe**, **Mark** and **John Newton** (2001-08) then all went skiing in Switzerland together in January 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS

Yasmin Lester-Powell (2004-11) for being awarded distinction for Masters in Animal Bioscience from the University of Edinburgh.

Russell Taylor (2001-11) 1st Class Honours in English Literature, Swansea University.

Benjamin Margesson (2003-13) 1st Class Honours in Agriculture & Farm Management, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Jennifer Phelps (1978-80) was awarded an MBE in the Queen's ninetieth birthday honours list for services to community engagement in



environmental protection.

Jenny works for FWAG South West

and works with farmers to improve water quality and flood protection in the Upper Thames catchment area.

Adam (1980-82), **Harley** (2002-09) and **Holly** (2001-12)

Phelps all attended the ceremony.

Rachel Medill (1979-81) was awarded the MBE in the Queen's ninetieth birthday honours list. She set up Ride High in 2008 and have worked full time on a pro bono basis since then to change the long-term prospects of many of Milton Keynes most disadvantaged children. They work with around 80 every week and owing to their long-term programme their results are excellent - over 90% of children graduating from Ride High are in full time school, education or work experience and are thriving.

Ride High are now aiming to expand the number of children they deal with and become financially sustainable. In the first half of 2017 they hope to set up a new social enterprise linked to the charity's aims and activities, which will provide the charity with a permanent home as well as a commercial income stream. This will be a model for other charities looking to become more self-reliant and less dependent on philanthropy. More at www.ridehigh.org



Rachel at the Ride High Ball with Patron Jeremy Vine, left and with her MBE after her investiture, right.





Issy Bailey (2005-10) was selected to take part in the Rio Paralympics in September 2016. She competed in the Women's P2-10m Air Pistol. She was one of 10 shooters selected to compete for ParalympicsGB alongside London 2012 medallists Matt Skelhon and James Bevis.

Issy had been involved in a car accident in June 2013 while in her first year at Exeter University studying English. She took up shooting as part of her rehabilitation and very soon after she first picked up an air pistol, she represented Great Britain at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Szczecin, Poland. She also enjoys playing wheelchair rugby and played her first game with Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club just a year after her injury.

Issy appeared on Channel 4's Last Leg during the Paralympics and met HRH Prince Edward. She has since been invited to talk at schools, conferences and on radio shows about the opportunities there are through disability sport. In March, she equalised the national record for P2 ladies 10-metre air pistol with a score of 376. Issy's progress can be followed on Twitter.

BIRTHS

To **Tommy** (1996-2003) and Samantha **Lait**, a girl, Otilie Sienna in February 2017.

MARRIAGES

Will Witchell (1994-2000) married Nicola Wallace at St Mary the Virgin church, Hambleden, Henley on Thames in October 2014. The wedding was attended by a number of ORs including his brother **Robin Witchell** (1992-97), **William Brittain Jones** (1992-97) and **James Brittain Jones** (1995-2000), **Sarah Brittain Jones** (née Padmore) (1996-2002) and **Edward Farnsworth** (1993-2000).

Carlo Vuolo (Staff: 1996-2013) married Jan Sparrow in December 2016. Jan is editor of the Cirencester Scene magazine.

Sophie Barltrop (2000-03) married Attilio Leccisotti at St Mary's Church in Bampton in April 2016. The reception was held in Alvescot, Oxfordshire.



Caroline Fay-Fright (née Wells) (2001-05), Claire Taylor (2000-05),
Charlotte Cumberpatch (2000-05), Sophie Barltrop (2006-03), Heather Davies
(née Röper) (1998-2005), Jessica Weston (1998-2005)
and Edwira Wickham (1998-2004)



Georgina Freeth (2006-09) married Lee Reeves at St Mary's Church, Castle Eaton in July 2016. Maid of honour was **Rosie Freeth** (2004-09) (in lower picture). The Reception was at her family home, Kingshill House.





Rufus Blackwell (1988-93) and Diah Mintarsh were married in September 2016 in Mui Ne, Vietnam beside the South China Sea surrounded by family and friends. His brother, **Ollie Blackwell** (1991-96) was best man. Rufus and Diah have lived and worked in Saigon for the past 4 years but have now just moved to a 41st floor apartment in central Jakarta, Indonesia. Another destination waiting to be discovered by **Sophie Blackwell** (Staff: 1990-09)

Hannah Timmins (2002-09) married Jack Hewson in Kies Villa, Lombok Indonesia in September 2016.



Hannah's husband, Jack Hewson, is a journalist. Hannah is working for The Forest Trust and often flies to Borneo with her work. She is now writing a paper on mapping and splitting the land between the locals, the palm oil companies and the animals, which will be published next year. They live in Jakarta.



Ashley Groombridge (2004-06) married Nick Madden in September 2016 in Daglingworth near Cirencester at the Church of the Holy Rood. Their reception was held at Ashley's childhood home in Daglingworth.







Polly Rudderham (1999-04) married Sam Lambert in November 2016 at the Great Tythe Barn in Tetbury



Barney Hatcher (1979-86) married Justine Rennie in April 2016 at Normanton Church on Rutland Water near to their home in the East Midlands followed by a reception at The George in Stamford. Barney's eldest son, Sam, was best man.





Tanya Wells (2001-04) married Paulo Vinícius Pereira de Oliveira in Minas Gerais, Brazil in November 2016. They celebrated in true Brazilian fashion, serving traditional Mineiro food, with a lively, traditional folk song sung by everyone as Tanya walked up the aisle with her dad, and also when Paulo and Tanya left the ceremony space. And of course, they danced samba till the early hours with a fabulous samba band and live music from friends. Tanya's sister **Nicki Wells** (2001-04) sang.

Paulo and Tanya are now working together forming a band 'Seven Eyes' where she sings and Paulo plays guitar. They can be found on seveneyesofficial.com and will be releasing their debut album called 'The Seed' this March. Their music has influences of folk/ jazz/ Brazilian/ Indian classical music and they will be touring the UK and Europe with the album. At the moment, they are living between the UK and Brazil.









Ashley and Nick



Georgina and Lee

STAFF RETIREMENTS



Mark Naylor (1998-2017), Director of Operations.

I first met Mark when my son started in the Junior school. Mark masterminded all the catering at the social events, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the parents. From the swimming galas, the annual Year group dinners, sports days and finally the Year 6 Leaving event, Mark was always smiling, ready to chat, but above all so professional

in his organisation.

Many of the parents, with our sons and daughters now in the senior school, continued to look forward to the various events – all of which would be attended by Mark and his dedicated team. In particular, the annual firework display when parents would work alongside Mark to help cater for the enormous number of spectators - what fun we had!!

Drama productions would always be well attended and Mark's bar was always a hive of activity. He kindly found space for me to run a raffle in aid of the Drama department. In between selling raffle tickets; I would help serve at the bar when things were particularly busy.

Many other organisations have enjoyed holding various events at Rendcomb, during exeat weekends and school holidays, with Mark and his team supplying quality food and service equal to the top restaurants.

Mark – Thank you for your friendship, and your total dedication to Rendcomb students and parents. You will certainly be a hard act to follow and I wish you every happiness in your retirement.

Sue Thomas (past parent)

Mark Naylor joined Rendcomb in the mid-1990s after a successful career in the RAF. Perhaps owing in part to that former career, Mark brought a sense of order and decorum to everything he did. Generations of Rendcombians will have been gently persuaded – with a wry smile and a quiet word – into the correct way of behaving at formal events; one former parent registered sincere gratitude for the influence that Mark had in this regard. Mark was also well known for being impeccably turned out; one colleague that visited me at Rendcomb sincerely thought I had a butler at my disposal!

One of the less dubious pleasures that Mark has had over the years has been as liaison over food but one that – true to form – he has taken most seriously. He has seen food tastes come full circle on numerous occasions over the years – ‘fat’ chips vs ‘thin’ chips being a central, alternating trend - all evidenced by the meticulous records of food committee meetings held since time immemorial, as many ORs will remember.

Mark has stewarded weddings, catered Christenings, hosted parties, welcomed conferences, entertained balls, looked after summer schools, amused theatrical groups, treated various meeting guests (and possibly humoured the whims of three Heads and two Bursars) as well as being master of ceremonies at various set pieces that have become so important to pupils: Thanksgiving; The Christmas Lunch; The Chinese New Year; The Leavers’ Weekend.

Mark has been the key internal point of contact for Parents’ Associations and OR groups and has built up relationships with many people in the wider community, not least The Royal British Legion and various charitable organisations.

Perhaps not well publicized, Mark has served on the Friends of Rendcomb committee for many years and I remember fondly his strong support for the charitable work that this group does in keeping with the School’s founding ethos. I am sure that everyone will wish Mark well in his retirement, which I hope brings with it fast cars and beekeeping...

Roland Martin (1982-89, Headmaster: 2012-15)



Susie Watkins, Mark Naylor, Gerry Holden, Christine Johnson and the late Jeremy Grey supporting Red Nose Day.

When trying to think what to write about **Mark Naylor** I was struck by just how much of school life he is involved with – yes, he is the front man for many of our showcase events such as Founder’s Day, Development dinners, May Balls etc., but he is also the force behind the scenes in so many other ways. From winding the clock in Clock Hall to wrestling with the nuances of the Nursery Milk Scheme, from stand-in shifts in the lunch servery to cover unexpected sickness to sitting on the Health and Safety Committee, Mark truly pops up all over the place. I suspect there will be many little aspects we come across in the next few months where we will all be wondering just who organised it and how they did it. Personally, I shall miss our chats about all the funny little things that only someone with a background in the hospitality business would understand or appreciate!

I know though that there are many parents who would thank Mark for all he has done for their children over the years, whether it be ensuring they know how to behave at formal events, or being able to greet just about all of them by name and even know their personal favourite meals and snacks.

During his time here, Mark has also been responsible for bringing many different commercial events to site and has established Rendcomb as a venue to rival many others in the Cotswolds for weddings and parties. I know he always takes a particular enjoyment in seeing ORs who choose to return to get married in St Peter’s and have their reception in the school.

As Mark moves to a well-earned retirement I have no doubt that he will remain busy and active within his local community and with his beloved garden and bees. Although he might not be making the journey every day I suspect his links with Rendcomb will not be severed totally though, and we will see him on regular occasions over the years to come. Enjoy taking it easier Mark – but have no doubt that you will be missed.

Eleanor Sharman (Bursar)

Christine Johnson (Staff: 2003-16)

I was once asked in all innocence, by a pupil, “Headmaster, what is the difference between a secretary and a PA?”
“That’s easy”, I replied “Mrs Johnson!”

When we found Christine Johnson in 2003, we knew we had struck gold. I recall that Christine had been carrying out some work for a committee in North Cerney, and when Sir Michael Angus (former Chairman of Governors, who lived in that wonderful hamlet alongside the A435) discovered that Christine had applied for the position he rang me up and

said: “You won’t find a better PA in The Cotswolds ...and what’s more she might even be able to cope with your idiosyncrasies.”

The role of a PA is a demanding one. Industry, loyalty, discretion and efficiency are all “given” qualities and Christine had these in abundance but she also brought with her a love of dogs (essential in my case), elegance and a mischievous sense of humour.

I used to refer to Christine as the second most important lady in my life, after **Liese**. We managed to find that wonderful balance between professionalism at work and as group with Tom, her delightful husband, enjoy evenings at Stratford with **Penny** and **Chris Wood**, **Bobby** and **Esther Morgan**.

Christine really looked after me. Knowing that I suffered from geographical dyslexia, she would print out a map from AA route planner, which took me from Rendcomb to Oxford, where I would be training new heads. Moreover, she would ring up The General Secretary to let him know that I had set off and my ETA – that really was going the extra mile, which in most cases it was!

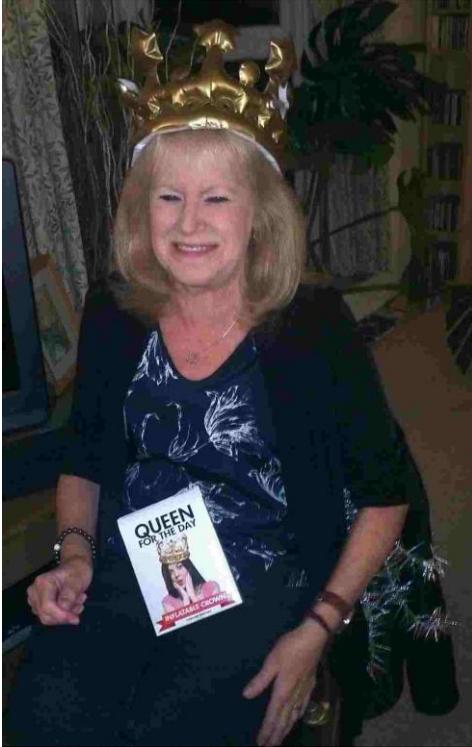
Christine was always the soul of discretion – a lot of confidential material flies across a Headmaster’s PA’s desk, and given her vast experience in Sussex before moving to Gloucestershire, she was hugely able to rebut the nosey member of staff who tried to solicit news from her. When asked by such a member of staff, “Is the headmaster in today?” she always delivered our agreed response with a straight face. “No. He’s on a course” ...and if pressed. “No. It’s not Cheltenham or St Andrews”.

In fact, Christine was so talented that she produced the slide of “Dos and Don’ts” for The Society of Heads’ PA course.

I am sure that Roland, and more recently Rob, also recognised these endearing features in Christine. In all the years we worked together, she only made one deliberate mistake. She had reached a certain age (we all knew this, as we had celebrated this landmark birthday) but she did not want her own age to be known officially. Given she was responsible for keeping the database on staff ages, she deliberately changed her entry. Not a great crime of our time but one, which I believe, inaugurated a Rendcomb tradition.

Behind every successful school is an incredibly hard-working and devoted PA. For over thirteen years and, three very different headmasters, that person was Christine. Rendcomb has much to thank her for.

Gerry Holden (Headmaster 1999-2011)



Carol Varley (Queenie)
(Staff: 1980-2016)

As many of the House-keeping and Catering staff have done, Carol joined Rendcomb in 1980 with the intention of staying just a short time on a temporary basis between jobs. Some 36 years later Carol decided to retire and spend some well-deserved time with Gordon her husband who had taken the step to retirement three years earlier.

Carol has worked throughout The College and many deep strong friendships have been forged both with members of the staff and the students she has come to know over the years. Her mark on Rendcomb is indelible, there are still keys

that read (Rona and Carol's cupboard) a piece of Rendcomb History. I do not believe there is an inch

of The College that Carol did not know and I am certain she was aware of every hiding place when I was trying to locate her within the Main Building.

In latter years, Carol moved to Park House where she supported the Sixth Form. Always willing to be a listening ear as they manoeuvred their way through their last two years at Rendcomb, winning their respect and admiration and as a tribute to her, they named her 'Queenie' and at her farewell in October there were emotional scenes as the whole of the Sixth Form turned up at her farewell presentation to say goodbye to a loyal and dedicated member of the Rendcomb Family. I am sure many of you will remember Carol and wish her a long and happy retirement with Gordon and the family.

Mark Naylor

Martin Graham



As I arrived at Rendcomb in 1990, Martin, who had started at Rendcomb in 1985, was promoted to be Head of History following the retirement of Denis Price. I am not sure whether he relished the idea of the new Deputy Head being the other member in a two-man department but Martin gave me a warm welcome and we got on famously for the next seventeen years until I retired in 2007. Since then he has continued to serve the College with loyalty and expertise as Head of Department until his retirement at the end of this year – a remarkable span in which so many pupils have benefited from his expert teaching.

As a teacher, Martin was able to reach all abilities while insisting on high standards of work and behaviour; he enjoyed teaching the youngest pupils in the Senior School and inspired them into a love of history that will stay with them; at the other end he was a brilliant sixth-form teacher who thrived in the small class atmosphere and was able to draw out of virtually all his students outstanding A level results. I consider myself to be very fortunate to have shared the sixth form teaching with him – Martin's record was so good

that we attracted over the years some very bright A level candidates and fortunately I didn't appear to have done them too much harm!

As a Head of Department Martin was extremely well-organised and he established for the department a wealth of resources, both in books and an outstanding video collection, as well as his personal store of slides (at the time of my departure the VHS format was in its last throes, which must have meant for Martin a lengthy transfer process to DVD!). Although in some ways a very traditional schoolmaster, Martin soon came to terms with the multitude of syllabus changes thrust on schools by the exam boards; at exam guidance meetings he usually knew more about the changes than the examiners themselves. He was not a great fan of the school inspection processes, which we all had to endure but the History Department always emerged with great credit.

Martin contributed a great deal more to Rendcomb, especially his work in the School Library and his coaching of rugby. I was fortunate to have him as a friend and colleague and to know the Graham family who lived for most of my time in the Garden House, just across the road from Conigre House where the Morgans resided. For those with longer memories it is rather a coincidence that these two school properties were both built as residences for John James, the legendary Second Master and Head of History. There must be history in the foundations.

Bobby Morgan (Deputy Head: 1990-2007)

When I was asked to write a piece in order to recognise and celebrate Martin Graham's achievements and importance at Rendcomb College I was slightly overwhelmed. This is because Mr Graham instilled, within so many students at Rendcomb, a deep love of history through his own passion for the subject. Moreover, watching him come alive and bring history to life in the classroom inspired me to become a teacher, as I have always felt that if I could have the impact on one student the way his teaching impacted on me then I could say that I had a successful career.

Thinking back to one of my first lessons with Martin Graham, I vividly remember him wheeling a 3m long stick around the classroom to demonstrate the most effective way a medieval soldier could defend themselves with their unruly weapons, and thinking, "Yes, I think I am going to like this lesson!"

Another example of Martin bringing history to life would be when I was a teaching assistant for a year at Rendcomb, he provided a vivid description of ancient torture. As well as this, Martin endeavoured to make all of his

lessons as relevant to the College and the surrounding area. In another lesson, he dug out a copy of the doomsday book and allowed all the students, who lived locally to see if they could find their houses and details of the buildings that had been in Rendcomb long before the College had been built. This amazing depth of knowledge and research was simply another way in which Martin enabled history to become relevant.

I cannot think of another teacher that had quite the resource bank that Mr Graham has collated over the years. It takes a lot of dedication to collect such an exhaustive range of sources that covered every topic from the Norman Conquest to the Home Front of the Second World War! Having spoken to many ex-students about Martin's retirement one resounding question has been asked - are you going to turn them into a book? The resources are fantastic and in a way, encapsulate Mr Graham's complete dedication to his job and his desire to educate his students thoroughly and without a stone left unturned.

I think that to ensure that I do not stray into cliché and risk sounding insincere it is best to simply end this short piece, by thanking you Mr Graham. It is not only I who thinks that Rendcomb is losing one of its most valuable members of staff and all we can do is hope that you understand how important you were in our education. **Sinead Brennan (2001-09)**

There are a couple of broad categories of teachers: those who seek strategically to prepare pupils for exam tactics and those who aim to pass on a passionate and deep interest in their subject. Martin Graham did not neglect the former goal and certainly helped his pupils achieve the best results possible, but I remember him for his obvious love of history. He was quietly spoken and always in complete control of his classroom - which he used to claim still smelt of burnt toast from its own history of having been a kitchen decades previously.

I think the key to his teaching was his ability to bring historical situations and particularly characters to life, so that his class could empathise with the human element of any story. He had his favourites from the historical canon; I always felt that Martin saw something of himself in his descriptions of Lord Liverpool's ability to calmly hold tenure over a country on the brink of revolt. Perhaps this had parallels with Martin's own understated approach and ability to navigate smoothly the many challenges of educating an unruly gaggle of GSCE or A-Level students (or even third-rate hockey players!). I also doubt any other teacher could have cemented in me the same lifelong admiration of Robert Peel - another of his favourites - and unpicked the heroism and drama of something as initially dry sounding

as “Corn Law Repeal”. Thinking about it now, it speaks volumes that I can still recall in great detail many of the twists and turns of 19th century political history whereas so many other subjects sadly have faded to vague recollection. Like Lord Liverpool, Martin serenely and diligently enjoyed a long reign at the top in the face of many winds of change and I wish him very well for his retirement.

Fred Ingham (1990-95)

Diana Baker (Staff: 2002-17). Diana came to Rendcomb as part of a *job share* on Main Reception in January 2002; when the other half of the *job share* moved on, Diana took on the full-time role. She mostly covered the early morning to late afternoon shift and was the first person we saw every morning as we entered the building always busy answering the numerous queries that pupils, parents, staff and visitors bestowed on her upon their arrival at school. Diana’s background was as a long-haul *trolley dolly* for British Airways and we always joked she had travelled everywhere, as she always remarked, *I’ve been there*, whenever somewhere in the world was mentioned! That stood her in excellent stead for a role in hospitality and she was perfectly comfortable at the hub of the College.

In later years, she took on the additional role of supporting the Works Manager in H & S administration and the Works Team and her knowledge in all sorts of inexplicable site matters was extensive. We will miss her very much in the coming weeks and months but wish Diana the very best of fortune on her retirement and hope that she is able to fulfil the dream of moving down to the Dartmouth area and to be able to dedicate more time to spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren.

Carol Endersby



Sarah White (2002-17) came to Rendcomb as a part-time German teacher to cover for Rachel Fielding while she was on maternity leave and has been at Rendcomb ever since. Writing in the Rendcombian about a German trip to Berlin, she captured the essence of these trips for the pupils combining the learning experience of visiting key historical and cultural sites while also enjoying the lighter side with shopping and foody outings. She will be much missed in the Language department and we wish her well for the future. A fuller tribute will appear next year.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Tyler who taught French from 1974 to 1982 sadly died in November 2016 aged 95. (Bill White attended the funeral).

Charles M. Carus (-Wilson) (1929-2016) died 7th February 2016 in Norwich. He was at Rendcomb 1941-48, which led to a sense for honesty and an interest in the construction of things. M. A. Carnell helped him to an interest in music, particularly choral singing. In the sixth form, he did History under J. C. James. After army service, he went to Christ's, Cambridge where he read History for a year before doing Architecture, which became his profession, which he continued to study in Edinburgh. He later started to work in Norwich.

With his love of old buildings; in 1973 he studied Conservation at York University, which led to him to work on conservation in South Norfolk and then in Norwich. After his retirement, he worked part-time on conservation of churches in the city and diocese of Norwich.

Charles leaves his wife Sally and two sons with families living in or near Norwich. This brief obituary is written by his brother **John** (1940-46), who has lived in Denmark for many years and has been a farmer.

John says: I should be glad to hear from any OR who cares to write to me.

Allan Wyatt (Governor 1990-96; Chairman 1992-96) died in January 2017. He was a former headmaster of Cranleigh Prep School with previous experience in the Treasury. On joining the governors, he soon established himself as a compassionate listener, with a sharp mind, who was prepared to take time and trouble to support the school. It was no surprise when he took over the Chair when Torquil Norman stood down. Gently and courteously, he set about getting to know better, trustees, governors and staff, both teaching and non-teaching. He thought hard about how to accomplish necessary business in a way that really was to the benefit of the College and its pupils. Deepening recession meant that he needed to spend countless hours ensuring that our finances stayed healthy.

I was lucky to have Allan as my Chairman; I loved my talks with him and learnt from him how to get the best out of a committee, how to develop and refine plans from one meeting to the next, and how to think problems through right to the end, missing nothing. Patta and I will always remember his time at Rendcomb with very special gratitude. We could not have asked for someone more generous-spirited and wise with whom to work over those happy five or so years.

John Tolputt (Headmaster 1987-99)



John Goodborn (1954-62) His wife, Sylvia, writes: John Goodborn was born in Loughborough on 5th November 1943. His father Arthur Thomas Goodborn was a school's inspector for arts and crafts, and his mother Eleanor Joyce Francis taught art and book-binding at Birmingham University. He had an elder sister, Marianne.

His father died of leukaemia when he was about 8 years old. His father was only 48 and John always believed he would die young, especially as he was the same tall physique as his father.

John was 6 ft 4 inches tall and was quite capable of walking 30 miles a day.

His mother decided that John needed a more masculine influence than he was getting at home, so, by the age of 10 she got him into Rendcomb College, a boarding school for boys only, at the time. There he found a father figure in the kind music teacher John Tooze. The college had a good carpentry department where John was let loose to develop his woodworking skills. He made many guitars, which he gave away to the other boys. There he made his first double bass, which he called Bertha. It was made from the wood of a large tree that was cut down in the grounds of Rendcomb.

After Rendcomb he went to the Birmingham School of Music to study to play the double bass. There he met his first wife, Olive. They had a daughter Anne, and John left his course and got a job with the library next door to the School of Music, to support them. Before long he got a job as a double bass player with the Royal Ballet. He played for Margot Fontaine and Nureyev. Ballet and dance music played an important part in his life. But it was a touring company and his wife did not like him doing the job so he left and got work as a carpenter. He helped build Pebble Mill Studios in Birmingham where he was a foreman for the carpenters.

His first marriage ended after 7 or 8 years. Two months later, he met his second wife, Sylvia. They were both playing for the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, and for the concert in Coventry Cathedral on 12th May 1973, there was no coach provided so John offered her a lift.

John now set about working up his bass playing. He passed the L.R.A.M. and went to Avery Hill Teachers' College to gain a teacher's certificate to become a qualified teacher. About this time, he had work playing jazz. In 1978 they bought a little cottage in Glossop, one up and one down and a bathroom. It had been renovated, but not the roof, and it leaked. So John rebuilt the roof. He wanted to make another double bass, but the size of the cottage made it impracticable. Never the less while Sylvia was out at work, he started to build a 5-string bass, hiding it in the loft when she was at home. But one day she arrived home early with an injured knee. From then on, he did not have to hide it in the loft.

For more space, in 1982 they bought Riverside House, a ruin. John gave up teaching to restore the house, but continued freelancing on double bass. He played for numerous ballet companies, the Manchester Camerata, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the English Philharmonic and even the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London.

After 4 years working on the house, when there were no more rooms available than there were in the cottage, they moved in. It was 1st April and there was just plastic sheeting at the windows, and it snowed! He did all the building himself, with only Sylvia helping.

While in Glossop he was offered work in Sweden, 6 weeks playing for a circus band. They wanted a bass guitar player. John did not have a guitar when he accepted the contract, but he soon went out and bought the wood and built one. He could already play the guitar. He was offered a scholarship to study guitar at the Royal College of Music in London, but chose to go to Birmingham on the double bass.

Music was obviously an important part of his life. He was very critical of performances, but when music was played really well, he was touched by it. The voices of some tenor singers could bring tears to his eyes.

As he grew older and there was less professional work around, he took up new instruments. Apart from playing the violin, viola, cello and double bass, he also taught himself to play brass instruments: the cornet, euphonium, trombone and tuba. He played in many bands and orchestras.

Although a double bass player, John liked to play solos. He and his wife Sylvia played professionally as a cello and double bass duo – the Buxton Spa Duo. By arranging music for this, John was able to play solos; but also in accompanying he showed his amazing virtuosity. For example, when they played *The Swan* – by Saint-Saens, he played the accompaniment all in harmonics at the end of the fingerboard, nearest the bridge. For a couple of years in the 1970s they worked as peripatetic instrumental teachers for Hull

Education and Authority. While there, John performed the Dittersdorf double bass concerto with the teachers' orchestra.

Besides the duo, Sylvia organised the Buxton Spa Quartet. When it became difficult to find a good viola player, John quietly got out a viola and worked it up until it was obvious he should join the quartet.

Not long after moving to Riverside House he started his violin business "The Bridge Fiddler Violin Shop". Besides repairing instruments for customers, he also restored a large number of violins, violas, cellos and double basses to sell in the shop, all to a high standard. His legacy will live on in the cellos and basses he made, all of which have wonderful tones.

For the past 34 years, he continued to work on the house and garden. When they bought a triangle of land next to the house, he planted an orchard, which has given him great pleasure. He also grew soft fruit and every year he bottled rhubarb, blackcurrants, plums and apples and made a lot of jam. All delicious! He also cleared a right of way through their garden, which had been like a quagmire, - too horribly muddy to walk through. Now, there is a tarmac walkway, a shrubbery and a lawned area. One hopes in future that this could be known as "John's Walkway"; after all he constructed it for the benefit of everyone. Life with John was never dull, always interesting. He worked hard all his life and achieved more than most. He was totally honest and held firm principles. He would always talk to people who were too shy to talk to others.

It was noticeable with John that he was always very good at saying "thank you", even for the smallest of things. To the end of his life this seemed to escalate, almost as an indication that his time was coming to an end. He certainly would have wanted to say thank you to Rendcomb for the skills he gained there, which he required for the rest of his life. He has already given his thanks to Rendcomb in this magazine in May 1996, in **John Goodborn** words which he wrote for the tribute of John Tooze which sums up his time at Rendcomb:

"Of all the staff at Rendcomb, the one who most approached a father figure was John Tooze who supported me as a practising member of the Church of England, making sure I knew the arrangements for Holy Communion etc., and using my confirmation names.

Though a straight classical musician himself, he encouraged us to follow our own personal tastes, putting up with my changes of instruments and styles and supporting me at each endeavour, never pushing but encouraging at each step.

It was not until later that I realised that the Christmas party was John Tooze's secret weapon; the school would be singing the musical sketches for months, not realising that they had been introduced to many operatic and classical tunes and I still use them as "Aide Memoir" and cannot listen to the Water Music without "Get on the tractor" etc. ringing in my head.

When I decided to change course, it was to John Tooze I went, expecting my fantasy to be dashed. He did no such thing, suggesting immediately my plan of action, gently pointing to my weaknesses and strengths, finding a suitable course and sending me on my way in my chosen career. I have much to thank Rendcomb for, but it is to John Tooze that I owe the most".

On a day when heavy storms disrupted trains, closed motorways and drenched pedestrians, 600 people made the journey to St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London to remember and celebrate the lives of **Will and Maria Henniker-Gotley**, (1972-78) who lost their lives in the Italian Earthquake of 24th August 2016. A private cremation service had been held at which **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78) had spoken. The service was followed by a reception at the beautiful Chelsea Town Hall. Among ORs supporting his brother, **John** (1973-79) and family, were: **Jenny Phelps** MBE (1978-89), **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Holly Phelps** (2000-12), **Tom Paton** (1974-81), **Adam Martyn-Smith** (1976-81), **Jane Gunner** (1975-77), **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78), **Duncan White** (1976-81), **Richard Tudor** (1973-80), **David Beanland** (1973-80), **Joe Watson** (1971-78), **Ian Pengelly** (1972-78), **Gerry Hedderwick** (1975-78).

Representing the College, **Hannah Boydell**, Development Manager
The Society represented: **Stephen Hewitt**, (1971-11), **David and Joan Hawkeswell** (Staff: 1973-79), **Carol Lamble** née Franklin (1979-81), **Keith Winmill** (1972-79), **Mike James** (1968-75), **Anne Holt** (Staff: 1968-96), **Charlotte and John Holdaway** (Staff: 1970-94), **Jade Sinclair** 1972-78), **Bill White** (1961-97), **Shane Glatress** (1973-78), **Penny Jones** (1976-78), **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78), Jim and Deirdre Waddell (OR parents), **Tim Parfitt** (1971-78), **Kerry-Jane Chandler** née Crowhurst (1976-78), **Mark Gunner** (2001-08), Joe Watson Senior (OR parent), **Denis and Mary Price** (Staff: 1969-1990), **Nick Price** (1973-80), **Alex** (1980-87, Staff: 1994-) and **Amanda Brealy** (Staff: 1994-), **Colin Burden** (Staff: 1966-97), **Simon Elliott** (1972-79), **John Willson** (Staff: 1967-88), **Kaye** and **Margaret Knapp** (Staff: 1960-90), **Simon Knapp** (1975-84), **Ben Knapp** (1977-84), Fiona Wilkinson (née Knapp), **Chris** (1966-71, Staff: 1976-2009) and **Penny Wood** (Staff: 1985-95), **Simon Buist** (1971-79).



William Henniker-Gotley (1972-78)

It was with great shock and sadness that I learned of the death of Will Gotley in the Italian earthquake on 24th August 2016.

Will joined Rendcomb in 1972. He was in the year below me and was my neighbour during prep in the Old Rectory. As an older second year, I showed him the ropes and helped him find his feet in the school. It became quickly apparent that he was someone that excelled across the

board. He was a gifted sportsman as well as being an outstanding academic. After a highly successful first year at Rendcomb, he ‘jumped’ into the third year where he continued his successful career, which culminated in his winning a place at Brasenose College, Oxford to read Engineering.

Although Will found the experience of ‘jumping’ a year very difficult – he said it was rather like starting at a new school – it was impossible to tell. He was a popular boy who was well liked and respected by his new classmates who admired not only his achievements but also his merrily relaxed and modest approach to life.

Will never really spoke much about reading Engineering at Oxford. One of the highlights he claimed was making a corkscrew but he got a good degree, was an enthusiastic rower and enjoyed an active social life, leading to firm and lasting friendships.

After Oxford, he worked for the Cambridge University Press where he gained valuable experience in computing and went from there to London setting up his own highly successful internet Digivate and then later turning around the struggling Cambridge company Timestrip.

While still in Cambridge, however, he met his future wife, Maria. Although great fun to be with, Will was always very quiet. As a young man,

Will and I sometimes speculated as to the sort of person we might marry in the future. Will was very clear: "I'd have to marry someone who talked a lot. If I didn't, our marriage might be nothing other than a long silence."

Will introduced me to Maria when they were enjoying their first flush of their romance. We had a lovely evening together and I recognized immediately in Maria the loquacious partner of whom he'd been dreaming. Maria's arts-based background complemented Will's scientific one perfectly. She was the chief accountant for the Lawn Tennis Association and she later worked for The Prince's Trust in a similar capacity.

They got married in 1996 and had two children, Francesca (2000) and Jack (2002). I was delighted to accept the role of godfather to Jack and I was able to share in the subsequent children's parties and other family events at their lovely house in Stockwell Park. Will and Maria were indeed great party throwers and their parties were most wonderful affairs. They were always inclusive and many friends grew to know the extended family that was so important to Will and Maria, particularly their parents and their brothers and sisters. Their generosity also extended to their second home in Sommati, central Italy, where they spent as much time as they were able and particularly enjoyed long summer holidays there. It was a place very dear to their hearts. In fact, Will accepted the directorship of Timestrip only on the basis that he could work 'from home' without specifying that this included his Italian house.

Will and Maria were outstanding parents. They gave Francesca and Jack the best of everything, taking a keen interest in their individual personalities when finding suitable schools for them. The needs of the children always came first and they brought them up in a wonderful secure atmosphere of joy and love. There was always laughter in the Gotley home and it was clear to everyone that their two adorable and accomplished children were their pride and joy. Now, cared for by Maria's sister, Giulia. I'm sure they will continue to thrive having been given the best start in life.

Will and Maria loved and adored each other and it is a tragic irony that having lived their lives so much together, both physically and spiritually, that they should have died in each other's arms. We will miss them both.

Hamish Wilson (1971-78)

In March 2017, HRH The Prince of Wales visited Amatrice in Italy and laid a wreath at a monument to the victims.

John Holdaway (Staff: 1988-93) died suddenly on a cruise in the Mediterranean in October 2016. A service was held for him at Holy Trinity Church, Badgeworth, Gloucestershire. Among the ORs who attended were: **Bill White**, (Staff: 1961-97), **Colin Burden** (Staff: 1966-97), **Chris Wood**, (1965-71, Staff 1976-2009), **John Willson** (Staff: 1967-88), **Jane Gunner** (1975-77), **Claire Germaine** (1990-93), **Sonya Grubb** (née Naish), **Aleksandra Maljkovic** (1989-91), **Margaret Knapp** (Staff: 1960-90), **Anne Holt** (Staff: 1968-96), **Denis & Mary Price** (Staff: 1969-90).

It was with great sadness, that I received the news of John Holdaway's sudden death. Even though we hadn't seen a great deal of each other over the years, the immediate feeling I had can only be described as something akin to that of losing a parent. Which is, of course, what the Holdaways were to many girls over the years – surrogate parents. One cannot possibly talk about John without including Charlotte, because they came as a team. John was an integral part of and massive support to Charlotte in her role as Housemother to the girls of Park House and soon became a familiar figure out and about with his beloved dog, Jack.

My parents were always more than happy to deposit me into the Holdaways' care at the start of each term. The guidance of John and Charlotte helped me to overcome some difficult times and the transition from day to boarding pupil, something I found very testing. John was always quietly there in the background providing much needed words of advice and support.

I soon learnt to put all these challenges into perspective and when, at the start of my second year, it was suggested I stay an extra 12 months to study Music A-level, there was only one possible answer – a resounding YES. To this day, I have never regretted that decision and, looking back, by the time I started my final year, life in Park House was good.

Life almost never works out as one plans and this can certainly be said of myself. I learnt many things during my three years in Park House under the Holdaways' care; these include how to face life's difficulties with dignity, to try and work to the best of my abilities, never give up, to treat others with respect and perhaps, most importantly of all, to always be myself.

Claire Germaine (1990-93)



During my time at Rendcomb, I knew little about **John Holdaway**, except that he was always present in Park House quietly backing up whatever Charlotte Holdaway did as Housemistress. I never realised then that he had a long career in teaching himself, having retired from being Head of Sir Thomas Rich's in Gloucester, just as Charlotte took up her post as Housemistress at Rendcomb. He did not bring this past to play with us, but instead showed us how a good spouse is there to back up and support the career of the other. They met aged 14 so their depth and understanding of each other was obviously immense and played a huge part in their success as Houseparents.

With us girls he was quick with humour, a wry smile and a teasing comment when he knew we were straying out of line but he was never heavy handed. At night, he walked Jack their faithful dog, we always felt just to catch out late night trysts and shenanigans, but really he had a tolerant approach to our attempts at a teenage life and would always be there with Charlotte to support us if we needed help. Later, after school, I kept in contact with them both over the years and learnt more about his wide interests and deep commitment to the local community. One always felt welcomed and embraced by their shared love of their past pupils and interest

in their future lives. Whilst dying as he did, so suddenly whilst on a cruise with Charlotte, was very traumatic for those left behind, I am happy for him that aged 80 he was still full of and enjoying life to the end.

Sonya Grubb (née Naish) (1990-92)

Peter K Dale (1955-60), his brother **Robin** (1960-62) wrote:

It is regret that I have to let you know my brother Peter K. Dale has died in May 2016. He was there with Mr. Lee-Browne. Pete moved to Rendcomb from Dean Close, which he didn't enjoy. The move was successful, and he thoroughly enjoyed Rendcomb, especially the sport.

Peter came home to farm which he didn't take to, and went on to join his uncle's Agricultural Barn building business, this is when he studied to become a draughtsman at the then Hereford Technical College. Peter worked from the ground floor of the construction business to become a Director of F. H. Dale Ltd of Leominster. Peter ran the business in Scotland from 1968 then started his own business in 1970 P. K. Dale Ltd from his home at Fogo, Berwickshire.

Peter was a lover of all country pursuits. He married Grania in 1970. Pete rode many point-to-point winners and in National Hunt races he rode a good horse to many successes called Bay Rondo. He then evented and hunted his own home-breed horses. His home breed horse New V.C. won three races weeks before Pete passed away. Grania died in 1999 on **14th May** 1999 and Pete on **14th May** 2016. They had no children.

Joe Smedley (Staff: 1950s) died in July 2016 aged 93 years old.

He taught art across the north of England. He first showed his artistic side as a child growing up in a Nottinghamshire mining community. He took a crayon and daubed religious images on the wall of his home. His mother painted over his work, but it would re-appear every time someone took a bath. He later went on to win a Miners' Welfare Scholarship to read Fine Art at Reading University. He remained a miner, a reserved occupation, during the Second World War. He taught art in Mansfield and Preston, gained an MA and PhD, taught Art at Rendcomb in the 1950s and then lectured in the history of art at Lincolnshire College of Art from 1971 to 1982. He has exhibited his work in London and New York, selling off most of his paintings in 2014.

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Registered Charity No. 290373

Chairman: Richard Wills, appointed 2004

Executive Trustee: Colin Burden, 21 The Whiteway, Cirencester,
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Jane Gunner (née Watson) – OR (1975-77), OR Honorary Secretary,
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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 (1988-95), OR Committee Member

If anyone would like to become a trustee of the Friends of Rendcomb, Colin should like to hear from you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Diana Dodd (Staff 1997-2016) writes: Please could you extend my thanks to Old Rendcombians who so kindly played a part in my farewell from the College. Some wrote about amusing memories for a collected set of stories of plays, musicals and lessons, which we worked on together. Others very bravely chose to tread the boards again and sang and danced their way through “You Can’t Stop The Beat” from “Hairspray”. Miss Bell and Miss Swan so kindly edited this all and it was shown, as a complete surprise to me, as a film in my final Headmaster’s Assembly. It was hilarious and very moving for this old trouper!

So a huge thank you to the following ORs: **Emily Apps** (2004-08), **Honor Birden** (2009-16), **Louis Cruzat** (2011-16), **Edward Davies** (2001-15), **April Brittain** née Edwards (2001-09), **Tommy Lait** (1996-2003), **Yasmin Lester-Powell** (2004-11), **Jake McKeown** (2001-12), **Ellie Mills** (2008-11), **Luke Nixon** (2009-14), **Tom Pethick** (2008-15), **Holly Phelps** (2001-12), **Rebecca Preston** (1998-2003), **Alex Pugh** (2007-15), **Kathryn Rew** (2005-15), **Edward Slark** (2001-11), **Hannah Taylor** (2006-11), **Katrina Webb** (2012-14) and **Olivia Witts** (2008-15).

I am moving on to directing “Broadway The Pirates of Penzance” for adults next year at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. That will be a new adventure! Always delighted to hear from ORs with their news, be it dramatic or otherwise! My new e-mail can be obtained via the OR secretary.

ST PETER'S CHURCH UPDATE

Firstly, and most importantly, I must thank all of you who generously gave to St Peter's this year. It is great to read your stories of how you were associated with our church, whether as a pupil, school secretary or member of staff. I would like to assure you that all your donations are spent on the fabric of the church.

We have just finished our project of renewing the bell ropes and, although this has taken longer than we hoped, they are all in place and it is a joy to hear bells ringing out for special occasions. We have had to make minor repairs to the roof and are awaiting with trepidation a survey of the whole roof, which we have been warned is not in a great state of repair! We also had some necessary work done to take down dead branches of the large Wellingtonia tree behind the church and have been assured that it is safe.

As I mentioned last year we have been without a parish priest but have been so lucky that Bob Edy, the College Chaplain, has stepped in and taken our services and looked after us all. After an extensive search, the parish representatives from the nine churches in the Benefice have agreed on a successor to the Revd Warwick Heathcote.

We are pleased to welcome the Revd David Minns as Priest in Charge of the Churn Valley Benefice, and he has moved into the Rectory in Stratton with his wife Laura. St Peter's was delighted to be the church chosen for his induction service on 29th January 2017. This was indeed a happy afternoon, with the rain lashing down outside, but the church was full of parishioners and visitors from Ewhurst, his previous parish.

The service was conducted by The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, and Father Howard Gilbert, Rural Dean.

After the final ringing of the bells and the handover of the 16th Century door key of the church, the Revd David, the Bishop and the priests processed to the College. The celebrations continued in the Reading Room with tea and a great spread of sandwiches, cakes and savouries made by members of the nine churches of the Benefice.

Services are regularly held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 11 am. Do come and join us if you are ever in the vicinity.

Annabel Purcell Treasurer



*Bishop Rachel and Rev. David Minns in the Reading Room
at Rendcomb College after the Induction Service.*

Digital Archive & Oldrendcombian.org.uk Website



It is nearly two years since the Old Rendcombian website moved to a new platform to support desktop, tablet and mobile devices. Building on the legacy foundation created by the late **Colin Hitchcock** (1971-78), significantly more material has been added. All 142 of the printed Magazines and

Chronicles covering 1925 to 1982 have been processed and published to the website. All the 'Rendcombian' magazines from 1983 issue one have been published, along with many more official school photographs to year 2000. We now have over 2GB of searchable content, around four times the original website. This amounts to an additional 2,900 A5 and 2,300 A4 pages just for the magazines alone.

We have also made it easier for you to keep in touch. Please use the new **Contact form** to keep your details up to date and add your preferences by visiting oldrendcombian.org.uk/contacts-and-links/ or use the links on the website Home page. The OR Society is bound by UK legislation and the data protection act. No personal information is stored on the OR website, nor is it exchanged with other unrelated third parties.

The College Governors kindly gave permission for us to create an eBook from the original **History of Rendcomb College Volume I**. The book forms an excellent reference from the pens of CHC Osborne, JC and KL James. We have reached a point where it can be converted to various mobile reading formats. It will become an important part of the College's digital archive covering the College's early years and innovative thinking around the principles of education. Whilst it is unlikely to trend on Kindle, a key benefit is the ability to search and reference its content online. The website 'Search' facility provides a Google search within the OR website. Try it out at oldrendcombian.org.uk/search-3/

There is still more to add to the website. An extensive collection of Woodwork Exhibition photographs from **Colin Burden** (Staff 1966-97) and more drone media will be added. If anyone is willing to loan their 'scrolled' copy of more recent **College photographs or any other memorabilia**, please contact **Nigel Powell** (1967-74) through the website links at oldrendcombian.org.uk. Photographs and other memorabilia may be dropped off at the next OR reunion on Sunday 2nd July 2017. Comments and suggestions are very welcome.

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS

Martin Griffiths (Staff: 1982-2003) has a selection of ceramics on exhibition in the Brewery Arts in Cirencester, which is where he had his first studio. He also has a painting being included in a book on Herefordshire Art and Literature and is spending January through to May in Lyon teaching English Literature on the French Bacculaureate.

Jamie Burley (2001-06) appeared as a contestant on BBC1's MasterChef programme in April 2016.



Each contestant started out with a dish of their own in an attempt to persuade John and Greg to put them through to the next stage without having to cook again. Jamie presented them with a pan-seared duck breast, dauphinoise potatoes, parsnip purée, honey glazed carrots, green beans and red cherry sauce.

While this was well received, he was up against stiff competition and

did not gain one of the first two coveted places. He therefore had to take the invention test if he wanted to progress further in the competition.

The choice of main ingredient was mango or lamb rump. Jamie chose the lamb, which he did with fondant potatoes, tender stem broccoli and a reduced red wine sauce. As a result of this he won the accolade that it was delightfully sweet and sticky. The meat was well cooked but the potatoes were not



quite done so there was a tense wait to discover whether he would get through to cook for the winner Ping Coombes and the two finalists, Angela Langford and Luke Owen from 2014. However, it turned out to be Greg's favourite dish of the three and Jamie went through.



Each of the now four remaining contestants had to cook a main course and pudding for the 2014 three.

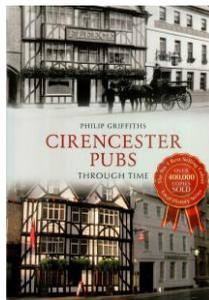
Jamie chose to cook fillet of sea bass, champ garlic spinach and a cream and

clam sauce followed by Bramley apple tarte tatin with vanilla cream. The fish was very well received and was good enough to see him through to the quarter-finals despite the Bramley apples fluffiness spoiling the look of the dessert. In the quarter final, contestants were given duck breast to work with. Jamie chose to do Thai green duck curry with Jasmine and coconut rice which the judges felt did not show off the duck well; so much to Jamie's disappointment he did not go through to knock out week. However, Jamie has to be congratulated for winning through to the quarter finals given the very stiff competition.

Penny Green (née Hooley) (1977-79) wrote: I have now ceased full-time work as Chief Executive of the University of London support staff pension plan (Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London – SAUL). On my retirement from SAUL it had over 38,000 members and £2.5 billion in assets. I am now spending my time working part-time as a pension fund trustee, spending more time in our home in France or travelling.

Phil Griffiths (1940-43) has had his book on Cirencester Pubs published. On sale locally in Waterstones, Tesco and also on Amazon it is a fascinating look at the changes to key buildings in the town through the last two centuries.

It is published by Amberley Press
ISBN 9-781445617060



Hamish Wilson (1971-78) has recently moved to the Yorkshire Dales National Park where he is setting up a residential creative writing centre, The Garsdale Retreat, with his partner, Rebecca. The centre is accommodated in an Edwardian House and converted stable block. The week-long programmes, which open in May 2017, are led by inspiring professional writers and include big names such as Ian McMillan, Fleur Adcock, John Hegley and Old Rendcombian poet, **Phil Lyons** (1970-76). Courses and retreats are offered on poetry, novel writing, musical theatre and performance poetry and are fully catered with excellent, locally sourced food. Its remote and beautiful setting provides a stunning backdrop to the workshops and participants can walk straight out from the centre into the breath-taking and inspiring landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Hamish feels there are positive echoes of Rendcomb in all this. If any ORs would like more information, please go to the website at thegarsdaleretreat.co.uk.

Christopher Dendy (1969-76) has been in touch. After leaving Rendcomb he went to Kingston Polytechnic. After inheriting a private piano teaching practice and cycling enormous distances between clients, he joined the staff of Claremont Fan Court School where he taught piano and gave a lot of concerts. He was eventually appointed Director of Music, which, he says, was a big mistake as he gradually disappeared beneath a mountain of red tape and bureaucracy. So in 1998 he moved to mid-Wales where he had a cottage and settled down to teaching and playing the piano. He teaches about 40 lessons a week to people aged five to eighty-two! In 2007, he was struck down with Musicians' Focal Dystonia – like writer's cramp; it affects the fourth and fifth fingers, but he still enjoys teaching.

In Machynlleth the Tabernacle is a regular venue for performing; it is a converted chapel with art gallery space, a superb auditorium with a beautiful Steinway piano. He has nine or ten pupil concerts there each year. He has recently taken up photography and gardening at which, judging from his CD, he is becoming an expert! He speaks fondly of his time at Rendcomb.

Greg Dorey (1967-73) has now retired from the Foreign Office and lives in West Sussex.

Ben Almond (1978-85) reports that his new Property Company went so well that he was approached by Pearson plc to be their global Head of Property. He started in March and now has around 1,000 properties to manage in 60 countries. As a result, he has travelled extensively – going overseas 16 times.

Ben Knapp (1977-84) still works for IBM in an internal role as the workforce leader for Europe for the consulting division.

He has managed to keep up with some tennis but is hampered by knee trouble. He captained a GB veterans team for a competition in Bologna in May 2016 and then was a member of the over 50's men's team in the world team championships in Helsinki in June.

John Willson (Staff: 1967-88) was recently playing for a wedding at Chepstow Parish Church where he is organist again after 25 years. The Chepstow male voice choir were singing and he discovered that their musical director was **Richard Fry** (1967-71).

David Vaisey (1945-54) suffered a stroke in August 2015 and since then has been resident at The Close Care Home, Burcot OX14 3DP where his wife has been resident since she had a stroke in 2011. He regrets that he has been unable to contact old friends by letter or email in recent months and is still not dexterous enough to do so. He can still be contacted on his e-mail address or via the OR secretary.

His book 'Bodleian Library Treasures' was published by the library in 2015. This year's Cheltenham Literary Festival in October will include the announcement of the winner of a new prize named in his honour, the David Vaisey Prize. This is to be competed for by County and Community Libraries within Gloucestershire and will be awarded to the one which is adjudged to have most effectively increased the readership of books.

James Cairns-Terry (1970-79) wrote to Jane in March: I am no longer flying airliners for a living as the whole industry has become too much like Ryanair, the way in which airline employees are treated. I had a wonderful 17 years in the job on a wide variety of routes, both scheduled and charter. I flew a number of the Premier League football teams to their various fixtures – including Chelsea, Manchester United and Lazio teams. Many of the players earned more in a week than I did in a whole year. I do miss the flying but not the lifestyle. I am now flying microlights again having originally started flying them in 1982. In the Summer, I took **Chris Pulford** up for a quick flight over Gloucester. My flying career has therefore come around a complete circle. I am now restoring antique clocks for a living. I am working in Newent being trained by John Jillings, the owner of the business. Although clock sales are at an all-time low, there is plenty of work in the servicing and repair side of things. I have worked on about 160 clocks to date, from long case clocks to small French clocks. They are all different and all have individual characters. So far there are no bits left over.

Will Witchell (1994-2000) wrote to Jane:

I went on to the Royal Agricultural College in 2001 and graduated with a degree in Agriculture and Land Management in 2004. Having worked at home on the farm for a number of years I moved out to Northern Ireland in November 2013 to become the Estate Manager for the Belmore Estates. I currently look after the Earl and Countess of Belmore's Estates and interests in Northern Ireland.

Chris Brisley (1941-50) writes that he and fellow class mates, **John Reed** and **Peter Cockell** meet three or four times a year to put the world to rights.

Robin Dale (1960-62) wrote to Jane saying that he had always hated school as all he wanted to do was farm.

Mr. Quick was Headmaster, Mr. James asked him to go to his study. “Robin, there is no point your staying on at school, go home and work on the Farm, you will never have to think.”

So off he went aged 15 years, his understanding of these words was that from a very young age he had done his apprenticeship. Farming was second nature to him; the family have been farmers for 300 years plus. He is still farming and as long as he is healthy, he will continue to do so.

Rachel Hill (née Gilyead) (1996-98) wrote to Jane in May 2016:

We now have two boys, Lucas (6) and Reuben (3) and are happily settled in North Essex. This September it will be 20 years since I started in the sixth form, and 25 years since Tim was a first year, which seems unbelievable!

Gerry Holden (Headmaster 1999-2011) has been Acting Principal at Atlantic College since March 2015, alongside running his own consultancy business. He believes there was Dulverton support for Atlantic College in the early stages of its set up.

Tim Robinson CBE (1979-86) has retired from the army having attained the rank of Major General. His military career has spanned two decades, seeing active service and leading troops in Iraq, Bosnia and Northern Ireland. He was also responsible for deploying land forces worldwide and for organising military operations inside the UK, as well as holding roles in Whitehall and at a Ministry of Defence think tank. He joined Schillings in January 2016 to advise clients and businesses on privacy and reputation.

Charlotte Jeffery (née Stephens) (1988-90) writes: I now have three children, Oliver nearly 15, Jasper aged 11 and Alexia is 9 and we are really settled in Hertfordshire. I am Chair of Governors of the local Primary School; I run the local Village Hall and am a part-time Receptionist at the Senior School my boys attend. Thanks to Facebook I manage to keep up with lots of old friends from Rendcomb but still regularly see **Fiona Burge** (née Reichwald) (1988-90) and **Lydia Rimmer** (née Fellows) (1988-90).

Peter Binks (1935-41) living in Australia is still very active and enjoyed a trip to Alice Springs and Ayres Rock with family and friends in April 2016.

Kidney Transplant Success

Pete Sayers (1968-75) started going out with **Jacqui Crowhurst** (1974-76) as soon as Jacqui joined the 6th form. They were together at Rendcomb, went to Bath University, married, bought a home in Bath, started a family (son, Jo, born 1983) and Pete became a self-employed software developer. Then in 1985 came Pete's life-changing diagnosis of irreversible renal failure, six weeks before daughter Jess arrived.

Pete started haemodialysis – three times a week, initially at Southmead Hospital then on a home dialysis machine: physically and psychologically tough, but it kept him alive!

Nearly two years later, on Friday 13 March 1987, the transplant coordinators phoned: a kidney was available and Pete was the best match. The next day the transplant went ahead. It was an immediate success: Pete was home within the week.

Thirty years later that kidney's still going strong, and Pete's enjoyed a normal, healthy life the entire time – only because in 1987 a donated kidney was such a good match. So in September 2017, Pete & Jacqui will walk the 177 miles of Offa's Dyke, aiming to get more people to register as donors – the more of you there are, the higher the chance of a great match for someone now on the waiting list.



Why Offa's Dyke?

It borders England and Wales – in Wales there is an 'opt out' system for organ donation, in England 'opt in'.

So if you have not already 'opted in' please take two minutes to sign up at **organdonation.nhs.uk**

If you're registered, great: please encourage colleagues/friends/family to sign up too. This can transform someone's life; Pete, his family and friends are eternally grateful to the donor who gifted Pete the last 30 years.

If you wish to donate please visit **JustGiving** to help the excellent work of the [Bristol Area Kidney Patients Association](#).

Pictures: **Norman Crowe** and **Pete** (opposite) and **Jacqui** and **Teta** (née Hennesey) **Crowe** on holiday in Mallorca in March 2017.



Nick Hance (1966-73) writes that he recently visited **Susie Stanhope** (1972-74): Susie lives on her beautiful wooden sailing boat travelling the islands of the Caribbean with her dogs and a cat, which she has done for twelve years or more, seven years plus in this boat and another sailing boat before that. My invitation to the islands came completely out of the blue in November last year (2015) and I joined the boat in the second week of December, as sailing crew.

I have sailed for a long time but never on such a powerful yacht, which Susie sails fast, keeping the sails trimmed and pulling hard. Hot sun, warm strong winds, warm ultramarine and turquoise seas, flying spray and lots of laughs, volcanic islands, whales, porpoises, old forests, fresh water streams and waterfalls and smiling people. England seems a little flat and grey.

Susie continues to teach, helping students get back to an education if they have dropped behind for whatever reasons.

Edward Thring (Bursar 1981-94) wrote to Jane: having read your 2016 OR newsletter I thought I would let you know that I am still alive now 86. After we left Rendcomb and Rapsgate in 1994 we moved to our family home in Somerset to look after my father who subsequently died in 2001 aged 98. After two years or sorting out the estate (my bursar knowledge became of use when he was alive to improve our home and farm/woodland) we sold the main house and a bit of land to my niece and her family, and Liz and I converted the stables into a lovely 5 bedroomed home for ourselves together with some 90 acres of land, of which 40 is woodland. This has all taken quite a bit of managing by us both but is worthwhile.

We have been doing B&B successfully until now but have now changed to ‘glamping’ and have built a six-bed wooden cabin, which is a great success and less work for us. We enjoy life with Liz still busy with her re-

upholstering and antiques, I run a small shoot here (it appeared in last week's Shooting Times), we have another golden retriever to replace Elsa, and now 16-year-old Jack Russell and they keep us busy. We are both pretty fit for our age. **Colin Burden** visited us some while back and we would be delighted to see them both again.

I was surprised to be greeted by name by the then Headmaster, **Roland Martin**, and his wife when I came to Audrey Gibbs memorial service. They remembered me from when he was a pupil! Glad to see **Bill White** is still going strong, he was a great help to me when I pitched up as Rendcomb, knowing nothing about bursaring; I think I learned pretty quickly. I see there are few of the staff still with you when I was there, **Martin Graham** I well remember and I think it was he who made some good cartoons of me. I am also in touch with **Anne Boyd**, ex HM's secretary.

IN MEMORIAM

Geoff Bye (1940-48) wrote to Jane: The recent digitisation of the College magazines has been amazing for me. The ability to look back on my Rendcomb years so easily is remarkable.

One thing it allowed me to do was to edit the Wikipedia entry for W. Powys Thomas, known at Rendcomb as Willie. The magazine provides data missing from his Wikipedia biography. His name pops up frequently in the magazine reports on the many stage productions. Surprisingly many actually! He went on to be perhaps the first OR to become a professional actor. Wikipedia now references Willie's years at Rendcomb and will, I hope, be visited by ORs. He deserves some recognition.

'Willie' Powys Thomas (1939-44), Actor and Teacher. It seems appropriate to begin to write this brief note in April 2016, the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare, since so much of Willie's career was based on the Bard.

Willie was born in Merthyr Tydfil on Christmas Day, 1925. He died in Pontypool on 27th June 1977. He attended Rendcomb from 1939 until 1944. His father, the Reverend Bryn Thomas had a parish in Kemble and is remembered (by me anyway) for his fiery sermons.

Willy was a leading light of the stage productions at school. His name appears in many of the plays that were produced, although the critiques gave little indication as to where his future belonged. At that time, minds were on the war and all its vicissitudes rather than on longer term future careers. One could say that his acting career began at Michaelmas Term 1940, when

Donald Elwy Mitchell cast him as John Roberts in “A Rouge Bed”. You are forgiven if the play is not known to you! He subsequently played another 10 roles at Rendcomb. My personal recollection of him on stage was his role as the old Dr. Faust, produced in Easter term of 1942. To quote the June 1942 magazine “...played beautifully by W.P.Thomas”.

He left Rendcomb with a history scholarship to Queens College Cambridge. But it being 1944 and WWII still raging, conscription loomed, rather than higher education. In the event, he was “balloted” or volunteered to be conscripted to the coalmines. Coal was an indispensable part of the war effort, being the principal source of the country’s energy and a source of coke for the steel industry.

Maintaining a viable work force was key but because so many miners were called-up to the forces or assigned to other industries the mines were short of labour. Ernest Bevin, then Minister of Labour, devised a plan to overcome shortfall in 1943 by conscripting young men as miners. Why experienced miners would be called-up or reassigned, to eventually be replaced by novices is not obvious. Selection was made every two weeks using the men’s registration numbers. The process was known as balloting and those “balloted” were known as Bevin Boys; 21,800 were so chosen, and 26,200 volunteered, making a total of some 48,000. This is from an article in the Daily Telegraph from 26th March 2008 by Elizabeth Grice. They were badly treated. They were often vilified as conscientious objectors, which they were not. They had no uniform and so could not be distinguished from civilians when above ground and consequently they were subject to some harassment. When discharged they got no recognition, none of the benefits that returning armed forces men got, and no real recognition until 1998 when for the first time they were represented at the Cenotaph memorial parade. Later, in 2000, HM The Queen unveiled a memorial in Coventry that commemorated the WWII role of civilians, including the Bevin Boys. “The Forgotten Conscripts” by Warwick Taylor, MBE, provided background to this little-known episode of WWII.

The College magazine of October 1944 included an article by Willie <https://goo.gl/DSLGG3> on his early experience as a Bevin Boy. The article is quite positive in tone although he had only been underground a short time when it was written, and so was still untouched by what must have been a very unpleasant experience. He plays down working in a space with headroom of 4’6”, where it is dark, hot and dusty, and noisy with machinery. To quote him “Now these things all sound very terrible, but the truth is that as one gets used to them they become mere everyday things, and one doesn’t

think about them”. Spoken like a fearless 18-year-old. He comments that some of his co-workers were there although they wanted to be in the armed forces, and others were there because they had chosen not to be in the forces. This is in line with the above *Daily Telegraph* article. He gives no indication as to which group he belonged. It is important to emphasize that they were conscripts. Some Bevin Boys were not released until 1948 as the wretched economy following the war required coal as much as during the war years. I have found no record to indicate when Willie would have been released. In fact, a press release on 3rd Jan 2008 by the National Museum of Wales stated that the official records were destroyed in the 1950s making it impossible to prove one’s service in the mines. Notwithstanding this comment, I found a reference to a record of Bevin Boys in the UK government GSI department and I requested a search for Willie’s record. Unfortunately the research was unsuccessful. There is then no record of when he finished his underground service.

Acting and teaching acting became his life. And acting happened even in the pits. He relates that at the shift-end the men would sometimes gather for an impromptu concert with “one-act-plays”, monologues and of course, we are in Wales, singing.

It is not certain if he took up his scholarship to Queens after ending his “National Service”. Louise Butterfield, the database manager at Queens kindly searched the college records for me, but was unable to find a record of Willie having attended, although she did qualify that by noting that the records are “a little hit or miss” for the period he would have been there. The Bevin Boy program was not wound down until 1948 so that Willie’s return to “civilian life” could have been any time between June 1945 and 1948. He and future wife Ann Morrish (they married in 1951) were stated by a contemporary, June Brown of EastEnders fame in her book “Before the year Dot”, to have been at the Old Vic school in April 1948. I believe that he joined the school in 1947, soon after it opened, right after release from the mines, and did not attend Queens, but this is only speculation.

His professional career began with the Old Vic. The Gloucestershire Echo reports a performance of *As You Like It* on 14th June 1949, starring Willie and Ann Morrish. Willie’s role was “Orlando’s brother” but which, Oliver or Jaques, is not specified. Another reference to the same Old Vic production states his role was Oliver. Ann played Celia. Willie and Ann were frequently cast in plays together over the years. The Ottawa Gazette, 14th March 1959 reports that they were one of two married couples joining the Stratford Festival Theatre, Ontario.

In 1951, he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon and was there until he left for Canada in 1956. It was at Stratford that I last met Willie, together with his wife Ann, at the stage door. This would have been in 1952 or 1953. Among the many roles he performed at the Royal was Oberon, in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* on 23rd March 1954 as reported on-line at aboutheartist.com/artists.

He spent the majority of the rest of his career in Canada. He joined the Stratford Festival Theatre, Ontario in 1957. His first recorded roles were as Player King and Carpenter in *Hamlet* in 1957, with a cast that included Christopher Plummer and Tammy Grimes (Internet Shakespeare Editions). The theatre had only recently opened in its permanent building, having performed in a tent from its formation in 1951 until 1956. The new building opened for the 1957 season, so Willie was one of the first to act in the new facility. At that time, the artistic director was Tyrone Guthrie. Willie is credited with 31 roles at Stratford. The roles included Polonius (*Hamlet*), Gloucester (*King Lear*) and lastly Cardinal Randolph (*King John*).

In 1960, he was one of the 16-member committee that founded the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. The object of the school was to provide training that otherwise had to be found abroad. It was also a bilingual enterprise and Willie was the artistic director of the English section until 1965. The school continues to operate. In recognition of his contribution to acting in Canada a bronze bust is displayed at the Monument National in Montreal.

Between 1959 and 1965 he had no roles at the Stratford Festival, but resumed as Glendower, *Henry VI* in 1965. He continued to act at the festival until 1972.

He is credited with founding the Vancouver Playhouse School, which opened in 1963. The Playhouse is now defunct. He acted there and a quote from a letter from actor David Bloom to The Tyee, a Vancouver newspaper dated 12th March 2012, (referring to the closing of the theatre), said 'Powys Thomas was Lear. He ran the Playhouse Acting School. The students from the school were in the show'. This performance was said to be in 1977 and so it was one of Willie's last performances.

Besides his stage performances Willie appeared in many TV series and movies. The list is too long for inclusion here but is available to anyone interested on the Internet Movie Database at imdb.com/name/nm0859374. In 1951 he performed as Richard Duke of Gloucester and John Clapper in The Black Arrow TV series and in 1969 he played Athos in the Three Musketeers, a TV movie. In between these two performances he played

about 30 other TV roles. He also appeared on Broadway at the Phoenix Theatre in 1958, in Stratford Festival productions of *The Gentleman of Verona* and *The Broken Jug*.

He died at a young age in Pontypool while on holiday from his home in Vancouver. He was survived by his then wife, Christina Thomas.

I believe Rendcomb can take some small credit for having nurtured his early acting skills and be proud that he went on to become a true professional actor and educator. I feel privileged to have known him.

The impetus for this note came from being able to access the old College magazines once they were digitised. There I came across Willie's note on his mine experience and the cast lists of the many Rendcomb theatrical productions. Thanks to those who undertook the digital task.

Note: Willie's son, **Nicholas Thomas** was at Rendcomb 1965-71. **Ed.**

RENDCOMBIANA



*21st May 1952, Frank Nash, Frank Crump, Bill Smith
Gardeners at Rendcomb*

Living at Rendcomb 1935-61

Hermione Lee-Browne, daughter of Denis Lee-Browne (Headmaster: 1932-60), died in May 2015. She married Rev. John Thornton in 1961 and lived in Longlevens and Great Witcombe, having a daughter and a son. This is her account of life at Rendcomb before, during and after the Second World War.

At the request of a family member, this personal account is not available in the online Newsletter 2017 publication.

The Newsletter continues on page 72.

COLLEGE NEWS

Sporting achievements during the College year 2015-16.

Athletics & Cross Country: Grace Knapp competed in the Cardiff Welsh schools races, winning a team gold medal and individual bronze, along with selection to represent the College & County at the South West Schools cross country on the 6th February as well as winning selection for the English National Schools Cross Country Championships on 5th March 2016.

Equestrian: Over the 2015 Summer Holidays Monte Swain-Granger played polo most days, practising stick and balling and also schooling his ponies. All his hard work led to a very successful summer where he played for both age group and adult teams. He played a couple of major tournaments for two teams, where they won the Daily Mail trophy and with the other team, came second in the Surtees championships. As a result of his performances, Monte was one of eight children to be selected to play in a tournament in Richmond. He was in the tournament winning team, winning the Stagshead Trophy for Young England 2015.

Lacrosse: The 1st XII won the National Schools Division 3 title while our U13s took a fine 2nd place in the Welsh Schools U13 Tournament during the Lent term. It was another 'bumper harvest' of County reps in the U15 & U19 Gloucestershire Lacrosse teams for Rendcomb, which, apart from our small size, is all the more remarkable as we are a 'one term' Lacrosse school. Well done to: Francesca Parshall, Eleanor Brealy- U19A; Pascale Summers, Kate Major, Maddie Morgan, Liberty Elliot- U19B. Becky Langley- U19 Reserve. Emily Musgrave, Anna Frost- U15B. Emily Sharman- U15 Reserve. The following girls will also be attending the England Lacrosse talent pathway over half term: Eleanor Brealy-National U19 Academy; Francesca Parshall, Lucy Hollands & Grace Knapp- U17 regional academy; Emily Sharman & Emily Musgrave- U15 regional academy. In Michaelmas 2016, Kieze Francis & Emily Sharman selected to Gloucestershire- U19 & England Academy Lacrosse.

Rugby: Well done to Jamie Southall on his selection and outstanding performances for the Bath U15 team. A pleasing development this year has been the number of players involved in Junior Academy/Player Development Programmes- Jamie Southall- Bath U15 team; Joe Brewer,

William Nichol, Luke Dale-Henderson & Tom Breare- Gloucester U14 DPP; Henry Holloway, Lorcan Carter-Brennan, Ben Bradley, Sam Clifford-Gloucester U15 DPP; Charlie Pugh- Bristol U15 DPP. Sam Jones played for the Stroud District Schools U16 team in their 3 wins against the Gloucester, Cheltenham & District and Forest of Dean & District schools U16 teams.

Hockey: Well done to Alex Dennett, Ollie Jones & Raife Hackett on their respective representative JAC (County & Regional) selections & Ollie in particular on his selection for the SW regional Performance Centre. Congratulations also to Anya Pereira, Thea Carter-Hughes, Jemima Elwes, Kates Holloway, Penny Lister, Ellie Miles-Sayers, Roman Bilinski, Joss Breare, Harry Baker, Oliver Beckett, Tom Breare, Jo Brewer, Will Nicol, Riley Rowe, Eva Maslin, Jessica Baker, Oscar & Rafe Althorp-Gormley, Alfie Beckett, Rory Hughes, Harry Lanyon, Jonny Peake, Nicky Musgrave & Alice Balchin who have all been invited to attend the Gloucestershire Hockey Association Junior Development Centre (JDC). Both our U13A & B Girls Hockey squads represented the College in the County round of the National Schools competition, where our 'A' squad came 5th out of 18 teams. Eva Maslin- South West Hockey Academy selection. Emily Musgrave was selected for regional Hockey Academy at U15 level as well!

Tennis: Anya Pereira continues to improve her LTA rating with some impressive performances on the Tennis circuit.

Dragon Boat Racing: Grace Balchin succeeded in her quest to gain a place in the boat of the U18 squad for the GB Dragon Boat Racing team who competed in the European Championships over the summer.

Swimming: Will Mangan and Alfie Beckett have had a good year in the pool, achieving PBs & County standards across a number of strokes and doing well for their respective Swimming Clubs.

Shooting: Maddy Morgan won the ladies' shooting comp in the mixed team (1Rendcomb pupil + 2 Millfield girls to make up a team) at Millfield.

Will Mbanga, Director of Sport

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards



On Monday, 16th May 2016, Headmaster Rob Jones and Head of Duke of Edinburgh, Hugh Marsden, from Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire attended a once in a life time Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace.

At the event, Rendcomb College was presented with a special plaque from the DofE Charity by celebrity supporter Gail Emms MBE (pictured centre), acknowledging the school's commitment to running the DofE and thanking it for giving young people the opportunity to transform their lives.

The DofE celebrated its Diamond Anniversary throughout 2016, having supported millions of young people in the UK and across the globe to achieve DofE Awards since it was founded in 1956. The prestigious Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace is one of many memorable events taking place to celebrate 60 years of the Charity.

Members of the Royal Family; **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, **HRH The Earl of Wessex** and **HRH The Countess of Wessex**, congratulated those that were present including young Gold Award achievers, organisations that deliver the DofE and special guests such as corporate supporters and DofE Diamond Challengers, who have set themselves a personal challenge to raise money for the DofE Charity in its anniversary year.

Rendcomb College has been delivering the DofE for many years and with pupils achieving a DofE Award after volunteering in their community, learning a skill, getting fit, going on an expedition and, for Gold, taking part in a week-long residential. Doing a DofE programme significantly impacts young people's futures, enabling them to develop vital skills for life and work, such as confidence, commitment, resilience and team work. Widely acknowledged as the world's leading achievement award for young people, Rendcomb College hold a licence to deliver DofE programmes to anyone between the ages of 14-24 years old.

Speaking proudly about their involvement with the DofE, Headmaster Rob Jones said: "We feel honoured to have been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive a commemorative plaque to acknowledge and say thank you for our work with the Charity during its Diamond Anniversary year. Our pupils are encouraged to push themselves outside of their comfort zones when doing their DofE and the skills that they develop can be life-changing, so for us to be involved is something very special. We are also proud to say that two former pupils received their Gold DofE Award at the Palace on the same day."

Peter Westgarth, Chief Executive of the DofE Charity said: "Through the DofE, Rendcomb College is inspiring the success of its young people; equipping them with the attributes and skills to get a job and build strong relationships whilst opening up their worlds and introducing them to a broad range of interests. We are truly grateful to all of our Licensed Organisations for the work that they do, they are an integral part of the DofE family, and our Diamond Anniversary is a fantastic opportunity to say thank you."

Old Rendcombians **Holly Phelps** (2001-12) and **Amy Benson** (2005-15) received their Gold Awards at Buckingham Palace that day.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



The brand new £3.3m theatre complex at Rendcomb College, the Griffin Centre, was officially opened on Friday, 24th February by special guest and former pupil, **Jonathan Suffolk** (1978-84), the National Theatre's Technical Director.

Speaking in the Griffin Centre's auditorium to a crowd of hundreds including The Rt. Hon. Countess Bathurst, in front of a dramatic backdrop from the school's production of Agatha Christie's stage adaptation of the murder mystery 'And Then There Were None' which was performed on the following Tuesday and Wednesday, **Jonathan** attributed his interest in the arts to his time at Rendcomb College and spoke of the way the school had

shaped his future. He said: “I had changed, I was ready for the new world of theatre... I’d learnt the value of collaboration.”

After leaving Rendcomb College in 1984, **Jonathan** followed what is now considered to be a meteoric rise from electrician’s mate to Technical Director; he now oversees 350 technicians who together realise the National Theatre’s 20 productions every year.

Commending the new Griffin Centre, which includes a 350-seat auditorium, mirrored dance studio with ballet barres and a sprung floor, dressing rooms, prop and set workshop and costume store, **Jonathan** offered some words of wisdom to pupils: “This is a brilliant building, but it is just a building, that has this evening been brought to life by this bold and wonderful performance, so grasp the opportunity this space has to offer, become more skilled, more cultured, and accomplished versions of yourselves.”

Quoting Theodore Roosevelt, **Jonathan**’s address echoed the ethos of Rendcomb College and the growth mind-set approach it adopts: “The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly.”

He continued: “Enormous congratulations to those of you who have made this place possible, for your vision, your ambitions and your endeavour. And for those of you who will have the greatest of privileges to use the Griffin Centre; enjoy it, and dare greatly, this is your arena.”

The evening included performances from pupils throughout the Junior and Senior school. Guests watched ballet and contemporary dance in the bespoke dance studio, poems were performed dramatically in the drama classroom, pianists entertained in the foyer and in the main auditorium, an excerpt from this week’s play, the first full-scale production in the new Griffin Centre, was performed.

Rendcomb College’s Chair of Governors, **Sir Francis Richards** KCMG, CVO, DL and Head of College **Rob Jones**, thanked those who had supported and donated to the building project, the first major building to be constructed at the school for 27 years.

OR TRAVEL BURSARY 2016

From Stable Chemistry Classroom to Berkeley Research Labs.



My name is **Luke Witts**, I graduated from Rendcomb College in 2013 and since then I have been studying for a Masters in Chemistry at the University of Southampton. Last year, I undertook a six-month research placement in the chemistry department at the University of California, Berkeley. I was extremely fortunate to conduct the placement under the supervision of Professor Omar Yaghi who is the world's leading expert in micro-porous functional materials.

My project consisted of designing a new micro-porous material with capabilities of storing large volumes of Carbon dioxide. The successful implications of this research could be used to reduce 'carbon footprints' and directly affect our day-to-day lives. Although challenging, the project was highly enjoyable and I am pleased to say that the work I carried out showed promising results in the field of Carbon dioxide capture and storage. The project is currently being continued by the Yaghi group, who are hoping to publish the results within the next year.

Thankfully, not all of my time in California took place in a Chemistry lab. Berkeley is located across the bay from San Francisco, which made great weekend hikes around the Bay area with views of the Golden Gate Bridge. During my stay in Berkeley, I continued my sporting exploits by

playing for the San Francisco Hockey Club, played for the Yaghi group's softball team and I learnt to snowboard in Lake Tahoe. I also watched several games of the University American Football team, although I'm sure you're pleased to hear that I won't be swapping it for soccer...

I mean, football. I stayed in California in a student co-op fraternity, which was a non-profit

organisation aimed at providing students with housing while volunteering to the local community. Many of my weekends were spent teaching English at an English Language school to foreign students. Here, I made lifelong friends from all over the world, many of whom I plan to visit again sometime this year.

My time at UC Berkeley was an unparalleled experience, both in terms of the learning opportunities in the lab and my experiences of the American culture. I would like to thank Jane Gunner and the Old Rendcombian Society committee for their support of the placement and I sincerely hope that the experiences I have shared will inspire Rendcomb students to live, work and study abroad.



Kuala Lumpur 2016

Tom Benson (2005-12) wrote: Last year I started my master's degree at the RAU in International Real Estate, a course that allowed me to gain knowledge of an interesting and challenging global market, with a three-month internship in the Far East. So, throughout May and June last year, I worked in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with three other course-mates.

This was a little different to your standard 'gap year' project. Rather than backpacking around hostels, I was interning in an office just opposite the Petronas Towers, the tallest dual skyscrapers in the world, and staying on the 26th floor of an apartment suite in downtown KL.



The view from my window. The Petronas Towers are just visible in the middle, behind the large apartment blocks.

I'd never been to Asia before, so wasn't exactly sure what to expect from KL. My only real experience with Malaysia so far had been the Malaysian restaurant in Oxford, where I had eaten many a *nasi lemak* as a student. Although I was excited to be travelling to the home of beef *rendang* and *nasi goreng*, I wasn't sure what kind of place I was going to be living in for the next 3 months, or whether I would enjoy it.

Travelling from the airport KL seemed large, grey, and a little unremarkable, concrete tower blocks and roads; I can't say, therefore, that on first impression I was very taken with the city. However, when we arrived at our apartment and once we were inside (after a slight miscommunication error where, for five awkward minutes, it looked as if me

and my female travelling companion might have booked the same room) I was able to get a much better view of the city I was staying in.

Kuala Lumpur is a modern city, not much more than a hundred years old; divided between its ultra-modern centre of gleaming towers and wealthy shopping malls, patronised by foreign visitors and wealthy Malaysians, and the higgledy-piggledy, rather more ramshackle areas where street food vendors, massage parlours and ‘ordinary’ Kuala Lumpurians hustle and jostle for attention. Everywhere a glossy globalised modernity rubs up against a local culture that is dirtier, livelier, and old-fashioned. Perhaps an exemplary instance of this conflict came in the battle for customers between the local taxi drivers; old; chain-smoking men in battered cars, with a penchant for haggling and ripping off tourists and the new presence of Uber drivers, young men and women with shiny Proton cars and iPhones.

(A side note: taxis, and traffic, and traffic *jams*, are a constant part of your life while living and working in KL. The nationalised oil industry means that petrol is cheap, everyone drives, and every day the roads are jam-packed with people. It’s not uncommon for people to be half an hour, an hour, late into the office, and just say ‘*the traffic*’ as an excuse).

Old and new is not the only conflict in Kuala Lumpur. For centuries a hub of trade between the Arab, Indian, Thai and Chinese powers, Malaysia is a complicated place, on ethnic, religious, and political grounds. Around fifty percent of the population is Malay, an Indonesian race that practises Islam. Ten percent are *bumiputra* or indigenous, the *orang asli* or ‘original people’ that inhabited the Malay peninsula. Twenty per cent are Chinese Malay, and around 6-7% are Indian. Ethnic tensions are ever-present, if not particularly vicious. Islam, the official religion of Malaysia, is ever-present in the somewhat unsettling call to prayer sung through loudspeakers, to the distinctly Islamic stylings of Malaysia’s buildings. KL has some beautiful skyscrapers influenced by traditional Arabic and Mughal Islamic design, that manage to lend the modern cityscape a local, distinctive character.

Kuala Lumpur is *hot*, and follows a fairly predictable weather pattern all year round. It is muggy, overcast and sticky for three to six days, before suddenly the heavens open and the streets are deluged in warm rain, while thunder roars like a cannonball being dropped down a lift shaft. For a day or two after the downpour, the sky clears and the sun then beats down with malevolent intensity. For those of us with a paler, more European complexion, it’s advisable to stay in the A/C cool of the indoors until the clouds take the edge of the sun’s heat once again.



Malaysian architecture, old and new. The 'Mughal' style building in the foreground was actually built by the British, copying architecture found in North India: an artefact of colonial rule.



More examples of colonial-era architecture.

Malaysia was of course a British colony at one point, and the traces of a colonial legacy are still present, though less in KL than in smaller colonial-era towns like Penang, Ipoh, and Malacca. Impeccably white, Georgian-style buildings dominate towns like Ipoh, their smooth whiteness giving them a sense of styrofoam artificiality. Everywhere, however, these relics of

British rule, the cricket grounds and administrative centres, were showing signs of wear and tear: while Malaysia seems generally more ambivalent than angry about its imperial past, perhaps they are nevertheless not particularly keen to hold onto these old buildings and the history they embody.



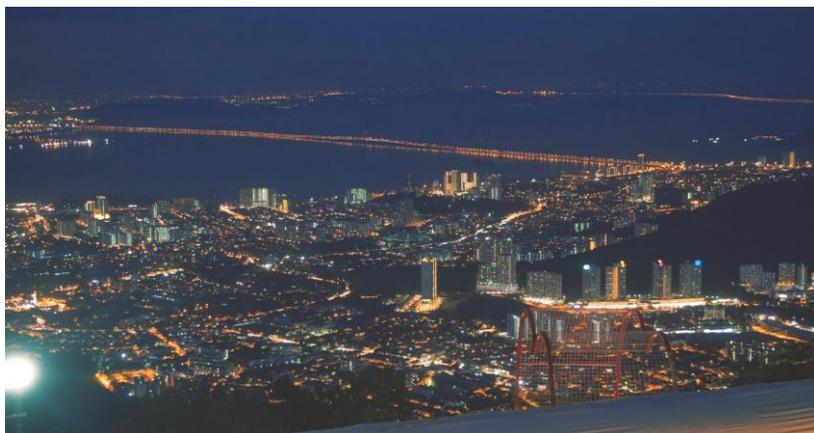
The former home of a British merchant, or ambassador, or civil servant, in Penang.



Decaying frontispieces in the old colonial town of Ipoh.

Of course, our internship wasn't all about work, and our weekend jaunts out to Ipoh, Penang and Redang allowed us to see a bit more of what Malaysia had to offer. In Ipoh, we travelled the Cameron Highlands, home of tea

plantations and a welcome breath of mountainous air after the stuffiness of the city; in Penang, we toured temples and sampled some of the best food I've ever had; in Redang, a series of islands nestling in the South Pacific, we merely laid back and relaxed on paradisiacal beaches.



Penang at night, seen from above. The bridges connecting it to the mainland are some of the longest in the world.



My friend Will and I, remarkably colour-coordinated with the wall behind us, at Kek Lok Si: the largest Buddhist temple in Malaysia.



The real reason to come to Malaysia. Nasi lemak (coconut rice) with ikan bilis (anchovies), sambal, ayam goreng (fried chicken), peanuts, and stingray curry.



The deep, forbidding jungle. Malaysia is one of 17 megadiverse countries on earth, with a wealth of rainforest and unique flora and fauna. Shame about the malaria.



Macaques! Exciting the first time you see them... less so when you realise they are everywhere.



The Petronas Towers loom through the smog.

Kuala Lumpur is a fascinating place to visit, from the ultra-glitzzy nightclubs to the messy chaos of its streets, and Malaysia offers a wealth of gorgeous sights and amazing food. However, the strength of Malaysia is perhaps also its drawback: it's a diverse place, but without much of its own history or shared sense of identity. If you are after history, religious experiences, or to get well away from the influence of the West, there are better places to go than Malaysia. What Malaysia *does* offer, however, is a great mix of



Kuala Lumpur from above. My flat is on the left-hand side, towards the middle!

Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Western, *and* Malay influences; it's a fantastic place to explore the varying cultures of the Far East, and the legacy of European colonial rule, within one country, or even one city. And it has some of the greatest food on earth, bar none.

The OR Society made an award to **Peter Gregory** (2009-16) to help him fund his summer of ballooning working towards entry in the Junior World Championships.

In the British Nationals, during summer 2016, Peter won two trophies: Best Newcomer and the Joker trophy (for gaining the best result on the task he played his joker). There were 16 pilots in total

Peter was the youngest by a long way although there were seven pilots under 30 years old, four of them competing (including Peter) for the first time at the Nationals. He was also very pleased to have beaten two pilots who competed in the Junior Worlds at the start of the summer (Peter was first reserve pilot for that event as he had not done enough competition flying last summer).

Peter's blog is:

polarsteps.com/PeterGregory/32256-ballooning-summer-2016

CRICKET



ORs who took part included: **Ben Smith** (2011-16), **Alistair Sinfield** (2006-13), **Tom Pethick** (2008-15), **Charlie Lambie** (2011-13), **Jack Pethick** (2006-13), **Josh Thomas** (2001-13), **Tristan Stevens** (2006-13), **Yannis Dimopoulos** (2012-14), **Louis Mernegh** (2007-14), **Aex Tatara-Mills** (2009-14) **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Greg Jones** (1996-2003), **Will Mario Scott** (2005-13), **Max Birden** (2007-12), **Alex Kentfield** (2005-11), **Ben Smith** (2006-11), **Tom Vollmer**, **Howard Auster** (2009-14), **Adam Padmore** (1996-2001), **Benjamin Stanfield** (1994-2001), **Giles Drew** (1994-2000), **Luke Witts** (2006-13), **Dan Geerah** (2007-2012), **Howard Auster** (2009-14)

RUGBY



Back Row: **Thomas Waldron** (Staff), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10, Staff: 2011-) **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **John Gotley** (1973-78), **Luke Lester-Powell** (2001-08), Guest.

Middle Row: **Yannis Dimopoulos** (2012-14), **Dan Gregory** (2007-14), **Paddy Gilling** (2010-12), **James Taylor** (2008-14), **Alex Pugh** (2007-15), **James Rose** (2009-14), **James Tarleton** (2001-06), Charles Pugh (Student), Gary Tarleton.

Front Row seated: **Sam Scott** (2005-13), **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), **Paddy Tarleton** (2002-12), **Tom Hansel** (2007-14).

*OR rugby competition,
December 2016.*

Team/Capt	Team 1	OR 2016
John Gotley	Adam P	TOUCH RUGBY
Paddy Gilling	Max Pugh	Dave Mallett
Harley Phelps	Ed T	Trust
Tom W	Chloe Pugh	
Yannis	Tarleton & S	
Tom Hansel	James Rose	
Sam Scott	James Taylor	
Dan Gregory		
Luke Lester-Powell		
		T1/abs T2
		### ###
		### ###
		1 11 11

HOCKEY

On Sunday, 23 October 2016, Rendcomb Ladies' Alumni hockey squad travelled to Dean Close for their inaugural Hockey Sixes tournament and came second overall. Supported by Sarah Bell, Rendcomb's Head of Girls' Games and Hannah Boydell, Development Manager, the Rendcomb Squad were a force to be reckoned with. Nine ORs from various leavers' groups going back to 2004 ranged from those that still play club hockey to those that had not picked up a hockey stick for several years (or decades!). We beat King Henry VII and Malvern in the group stages (and narrowly lost to Bloxham) to finish second in the group. We then had a very exciting game against the leaders in the other group, St Edward's Oxford, where the game finished 1-1 and we survived five minutes of sudden death to finally win on penalty flicks.

Sadly in the final we lost 1-0 to Bloxham who were a very skilful side. We did have some very questionable umpiring decisions leading to one of our players being sent off (totally unjustified) meaning we played most of the final with five players. Therefore the team were content with a very respectable second! The team are already all signed up for next years' tournament - perhaps we can field two teams...?! **Jess Weston**

Pictured (next page) left to right:

Delia Rich (2001-11), **Charlotte Ellis** (1999-2004), **Alice Tredwell** (née Barefoot) (1997-2004), **Harriet Kingsford** (1999-2004), **Charlie Clements** (2005-11), **Jessica Weston** (1998-2005), **Sarah Colson** (1997-2004), **Becca Edwards** (née Demczak) (1999-2002) **Maria Highlands** (2010-12) (Goalie)



Hockey Saturday 25th March 2017



On Saturday 25th March some great hockey was played by both sides with the day ending one each in victories (OR 2nd XI vs RC 2nd XI 7-0 and OR 1st XI vs RC 1st XI 0-2).

Among the ORs who played were: **Duncan White** (1976-81), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), **John Godley** (1973-78), **Joe Scott** (2001-08), **Charley Stutchbury** (2001-08), **John Newton** (2001-08), **Ed Thomason** (2005-2010, Staff: 2011-), **Josh Thomas** (2001-13) (Goal keeper), **Dan Gregory** (2007-14), **Alex Tatara-Mills** (2009-14), **Charlie Lambie** (2011-13), **Tom Pethick** (2008-15), **Luke Witts** (2006-13), **Dan Gregory** (2007-2014), **Will Scott** (2005-13), **Sam Tushingham** (2009-16)

LACROSSE



It was great to see Girls Lacrosse happening for the first time in a long time and with the Old Rendcombian's winning against the College 5-2. The girls that came back said they would definitely come back next year to support the event and hopefully get more people to come back and play, so that the staff didn't need to play. The girls from the College really enjoyed themselves as well and would like to thank the society for getting a team together to play them. Those that played were:

Kathryn Rew (2005-15), **Emily Jones** (2006-15), **Charlotte Jones** (2003-10), **Natasha Heffron** (2005-10), **Olivia Ellis**, (2010-15), **Cerys Davies** (2008-14) and **Lucy Taylor** (2008-10).

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2016

Vajresh Balaji	Millsaps College USA - Computer Science
Jasmine Barker	Bath Spa University - Early Years Education
Honor Birden	Cardiff University - Economics
Antonia Cohrt	Unknown
Jacob Crozier-Davies	University of Winchester - Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
Louis Cruzat	University of Leeds - English Literature
Yi Dai	Imperial College London - Mathematics with Statistics for Finance
George Dimopoulos	University of Leeds - English Literature
Courtney Doyle	Edge Hill University - Psychology
Peter Gregory	Pilot's Course
Daniel Hansel	University of Exeter - Geography (Science)
Wen Jin	Oxford University - Experimental Psychology
Shuhong Lu	University of Bath - Accounting and Finance (with professional placement)
Kate Major	The Royal Musical School of Music
Arthur Mills	Cardiff Metropolitan University - Sport and Exercise Science
Denis Ogurtsov	The University of Nottingham - Financial Mathematics
Francesca Parshall	Keiser University - Florida - Political Science
James Sinfield	Loughborough University - History
Thomas Smith	Sheffield Hallam University - Mechanical Engineering
Pascale Summers	King's College London - History
Samuel Tushingam	Keele University - Medicine
Yuanron Wang	Imperial College London - Physics
Yifeng Wang	The University of Liverpool - Computer Science
BoYa Yang	East Anglia - Mathematics - not confirmed

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

E-mail.....

Years at Rendcomb

Junior School.....

Senior School.....

Telephone Number.....

Please send to:

Jane Gunner, Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos
GL7 7BA or e-mail **secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk** indicating whether
you are happy for this information to be shared with the College and/or the
Friends of Rendcomb.

Alternatively, we have recently updated the **Contact Form** on the OR
Society website. Please use the link on the home page and main menu to
update any of your contact information and your communication
preferences.

The link can be found here: oldrendcombian.org.uk/contacts-and-links/

If you wish to make a donation to the **Friends of Rendcomb College**
charity, please use the form on the following page, or for more information
use the link here: oldrendcombian.org.uk/forms/

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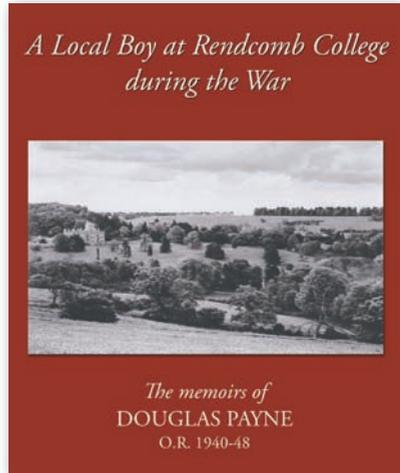
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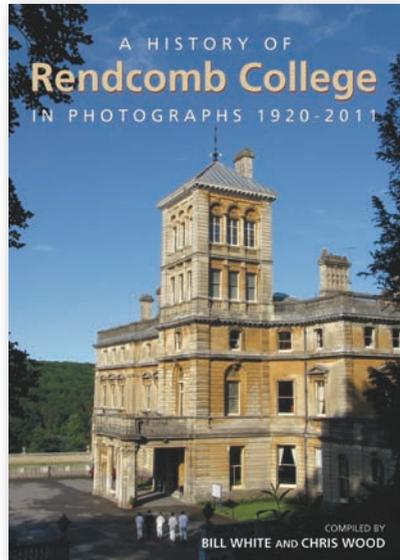
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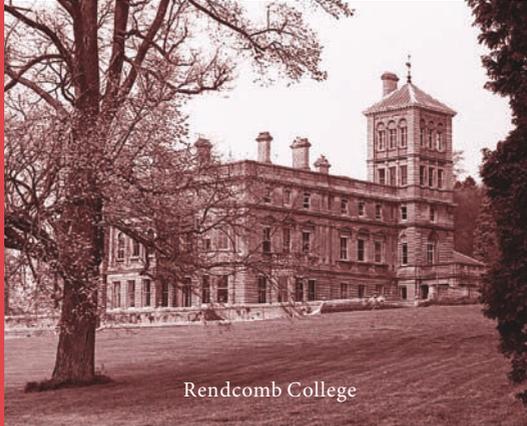
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*This edition of the Old Rendcombian Society Newsletter is dedicated
to the memory of Colin (Bill) Franklyn Bailey (OR|1936-39)*