



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2018

44th Edition

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 2nd July 2017 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, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: 01285 658627 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.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 (2002-2009) Iain Whittaker (1980-87) Hamish Wilson (1971-78)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Keynes House, Water Lane, Somerford Keynes Cirencester GL7 6DS e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

Amendments: Edition v2 10-6-2018

**The Minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting
Of The Old Rendcombian Society
held at Rendcomb College in Room E1 on Sunday 2nd July 2017**

Present: Jane Gunner neé Watson (1975-1977), Claire Germaine (1990-1993), Bill White (Staff: 1961-1997), Nigel Powell (1967-1974), Des Knox (1970-1975), Hamish Wilson (1971-1978), Christopher Pulford (1970-1977), Simon Tyler (1970-1977), Paul Curtis Hayward (1970-1977), Colin Burden (Staff: 1963-97), Rob Jones (Head of College: 2015-), James Mann (1982-1987), Alex Brealy (1980-1987, Staff: 1994-) Neil Johnson (1964-1970), Bob Edy (1959-1967, Staff: 2015-), Nigel Green (1961-1969), Robin Bowen (1963-1970), Roy Edwards (1972-1979), Sarah Baker (1990-1992)

1. Apologies: Julian Comrie (1946-1954), Jess Weston (1998-2005), Chris Wood (1965-1971), Harley Phelps (2002-2009), Ed Thomason (2005-2010, Staff 2011-), David Williams (1966-1971), Neil Lumby (1968-1971)
2. The minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting were signed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising
There were no matters arising, which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
4. Honorary Treasurer's report
Claire Germaine presented the report, which had been prepared by Chris Wood. The figures were circulated and had been audited by David Williams. Funds were £4,000 up on last year because there had been no money paid out on the Travel Bursary and there had been the legacy from Colin (Bill) Franklyn Bailey (1936-1939) of nearly £3,000. There had been fewer shop sales this year and there had been two additional mail drops as a result of the deaths of William Henniker-Gotley (1972-1978) in the Italian earthquake and John Holdaway (Staff: 1988-1993). Fees had also been paid out for two delegates to attend an AROPS, the alumni association, conference.

The committee had agreed to use £850 of Colin Hitchcock's (1971-1978) legacy to help fund the purchase of a Polymerise Chain Reaction (PCR) machine for the Biology lab. The Friends of Rendcomb would be paying £2,250 towards it with money raised in Colin's memory. The Head of Science had written to Jane expressing the department's appreciation and Rob Jones, Head of College, stressed that this would put Rendcomb in the forefront of technology and would mean other schools could come and visit to use it.

There was some discussion about the expense of the newsletter and some people requested that they could receive the newsletter in .pdf form. This is already possible as the newsletters are on the website. Anyone not wishing to receive a hard copy just needs to notify Jane and they will be sent an e-mail notifying them of when the next one is available to download.

5. Nominations for Committee Members

The latest 5 year term had come to an end and nominations had been invited for the position of Honorary Secretary. Jane reported that she had received no nominations so she was elected unanimously to serve another term.

6. Travel Bursary

Although there had been no application from pupils and only one application this year from an Old Rendcombian, the award of £500 offered had not been taken up. The committee recommendation was for £1,500 to be allocated for the 2017/2018 travel bursary and asked for guidance on whether the £1,500 from 2016/2017 should also be available for disbursement.

It was proposed by Bob Edy (1959-1967, Staff: 2015-) and seconded by Bill White (Staff: 1961-1997), that £1,500 should be allocated for 2017/2018 and that the committee should have the flexibility to use the 2016/2017 allocation if applications warranted it. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

Rob Jones (Head of College: 2015-) reported that numbers in the College were growing at all levels and the VIth Form would be 95 strong in September, although he was determined that Rendcomb would

retain its small school ethos. All last year's VIth Form had successfully won the places they wanted at University or College.

In sport, teams continued to punch above their weight with girls' shooting winning a trophy against some much bigger schools. Hockey teams had also been doing very well. Rob went on to thank staff and pupils and particularly his wife Pippa for helping to make Rendcomb such a success.

Colin Burden (Staff: 1963-1997) reported on the Friends of Rendcomb. He explained that in July 2013 the Trustees put their investments in Rathbones Greenbank, which was an ethical investor. Investments currently stood at £161,000. £37,000 was raised to year end April 2016 and £16,000 to year end April 2017. £17,000 had been paid out in each of these years to cover fees for those in need.

Jane Gunner (1975-1977) reported that she and Nigel Powell (1967-1974) had been to the AROPS conference in May at Prior Park School in Bath. One of the topics discussed was the new legislation regarding data protection and fundraising. While this is less of an issue for the Old Rendcombians because people signed up to a life membership and the Society does not normally fundraise from the alumni, it is a problem for the College and Friends of Rendcomb. Nigel Powell had set up a change of address notification on the OR website which allows alumni to specify whether they are happy for the ORs to share their information with the other two organisations. It is also allowable for those present to affirm their permission for theirs to be shared, which was agreed. Jane requested anyone who preferred not to, to tell her at the end of the meeting.

Bill White thanked the College and the committee for all they had done and the meeting closed at 12.55pm.

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,

Cricket: Edward Thomason, thomasonE@rendcombcollege.org.uk

85th Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 1st July 2018 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p.m

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 84th A.G.M. held on 2nd July 2017
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Travel Bursary
6. Any other business
7. Vote of thanks to the College

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures

Sunday 1st July 2018 timetable:

10.30 a.m.	Coffee in Clock Hall
11.15 a.m.	Cricket match
12 noon	Pay Bar
12.15 p.m.	AGM in Room E1
1.00 p.m.	Hot Lunch including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors. Main course to be collected from Servery. No charge: any donations to O.R. Society gratefully received.
	Staff retirement presentations.
2.30 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.

40 SOMETHING YEARS ON

Charlie Hussey (1974-76), Lucy Brain (1974-76), et al. are inviting 1976 leavers to come to OR Day on 1st July for a reunion to celebrate their eligibility for Senior Rail cards this year. They will be pleased if other people from that general era come along, especially those from the classes of '75 and '77.

40 YEARS ON

Penny Jones (1976-78), **Anthony Flambard** (1971-78) and **Jade Sinclair** (1972-78) amongst others are organising a weekend of celebration for their year's 40th anniversary to coincide with the OR reunion on 1st July. For more details please contact Penny.

SPORTS FIXTURES

Tag Rugby Tournament: Saturday 8th December 2018

Hockey: Saturday 30th March 2019 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 30th June 2019 (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.

As you may be aware the numbers attending the sporting fixtures have been steadily dropping for a number of years. While we appreciate that plans can change at the last minute, we would respectfully request that if you have indicated that you would like to play that you do turn up on the day or let those organising the event that you can't make it after all. It is very disappointing for both ORs and College teams if there are not enough people to make a real contest of it. It is also costly for the College who provide team teas, which are then wasted.

OR REUNION –2nd July 2017

On the most beautiful sunny day, ORs gathered at the College for the annual summer reunion. The day coincided with leavers' weekend and this brought its own flavour to the day. Completely blinkered by the needs of the ORs, I failed to spot what was going on as the leavers played a series of humorous, inventive but benign tricks on those around them.

The Headmaster had kindly opened some rooms and buildings for the ORs ready for the AGM and afternoon tours of the campus. At about 10.45am, I popped up to E1 where the AGM was to be held to set up the room ready for the meeting. Already there were three pupils there and some of the desks and chairs had been moved. Thinking they were practicing for a play or musical event, I left my pile of newsletters and returned downstairs. A bit later I went back up to find them still there so I asked how much longer they were going to be. They very politely requested a further twenty minutes which was fine by me as there would still be plenty of time to arrange the room before the meeting.

At 11.30am, **Richard Tudor**, **Nigel Powell** and I went back up to E1 to find all the tables, chairs, teacher's desk and office chair piled into what looked like a Tate Modern exhibit in the corner of the room with all legs and appendages tied together with tie-wraps. Even then I didn't realise what was going on and popped along to the Head's office to enquire whether it would be all right if we dismantled the pile. He returned with me and immediately put the 'work of art' into context. He then headed off to do a rapid tour of the open buildings to check that there were no similar creations out there. It was only after the event that I wished that I had taken a photo and I recalled that someone had pointed out that Saul had won some googly eyes. When these were discovered by staff, I have yet to find out!!

Unfortunately not enough cricketers turned up for there to be a match but the year group reunions were well attended particularly the 30 year group. **Martin Graham** was afforded an excellent send off with more than 50 people at the lunch to wish him well for his retirement. As he had taught for 32 years at the College it was particularly appropriate for there to be so many there from the beginning of his term as well as those more recent leavers. **Sinead Brennan** (2001-09) gave an excellent speech as did **Bill White**, who welcomed Martin to the 30 years club, which includes Denis Lee-Browne, John James, Jack Fell, Colin Burden, Kaye Knapp, Chris Wood and Bill himself.

The tours this time took in the church, where, thanks to **Bob Edy** (1959-65, Staff 2015-) being there, **Nick Smith** (1971-75) and three others briefly rang the bells, transporting them back to when bell-ringing featured as an after-school activity. (This has now been reinstated thanks to Bob). On to the Performing Arts Centre, ORs were very impressed by it even if some weren't quite sure whether it complemented the older buildings. Inside though was appreciated by every one and we were treated to some tinkling of the ivories by **Neil Johnson** (1964-70) and **James Cairns-Terry** (1972-77).

Once again the Society would like to thank the catering team, this time led by Phil Strongman, who all worked tirelessly and cheerfully to meet our demands, the Headmaster for allowing us to use and enjoy the wonderful campus so fully and the **Brealys** for covering all bases; signs, photos, tours. We are very grateful.

Jane Gunner

Group photo on facing page:

Front row: **Des Knox** (1970-75), **Jane Gunner** (1975-77), **Laura Graham** (2000-10), **Aileen Graham** (2000-07), **Suzanna van Moyland** (1985-87), **Juliet Birley** (née Hasler) (1985-87), **Chris Moody** (80-87), **Alex Brealy** (82-87).

Second row: **Roy Edwards** (72-79), **Alex Jones** (2005-10), guest, **Amanda Graham** (2000-07), **Annalisa Wood** (née Heal) (85-87), **Lisa Davies** (née Wallace) (85-87), **Polly McLelland** (née Nicholls) (85-87), **Mark Walters** (80-87). Third row: **Steve Hewitt** (71-77), **Simon Tyler** (70-77), **Hamish Wilson** (71-78), **Sinead Brennan** (2001-09), **Chris Pope** (80-87), **James Mann** (82-87), **Phil Moore** (80-87), **Theresa John** (née Fox) (85-87), **Robin Bowen** (1963-70), **Taryn Nixon** (75-77).

Back row (left to right) **James Terry** (72-77), **Nigel Powell** (67-74), **Phil Everatt** (69-76), **Sara Freeman** (75-77), **Martin Graham** (Staff: 1985-2017), **Bill White** (staff), Mrs and **Nick Smith** (72-77), **Richard Tudor** (73-80), **Chris Pulford** (70-77), **Colin Burden** (Staff: 1963-97), **Sarah Robinson** (75-77).

Also present on the day from the 1987 group, but not in the picture: **Simon Reichwald** (82-87), **Iain Whittaker** (80-87), **Dan Beales** (1980 - 87), **Gus Noyce**, (82 -87) **Raquel Hughes** (85-87).

10 YEARS ON



Round the table left to right: **Luke Lester-Powell**, **Ryan Watson**, **Alex Holden**, **Stanley Marshall**, **John Thistlethwaite**, **Matthew Hook**, **Lucas Bliss**, **Tom Wise**, **Beth Davies** (née Sampson), **Tessa Couch** and **Amanda Graham** (Not in picture) met up in Cheltenham



20 YEARS ON



Barbara Unger (1997-99) wrote:

We received a great welcome and tour by the bursar and her son. With 42



people visiting*, the group was just too big to be taken around in one go ... thus we got split up. Twenty ORs (nineteen former students and 1 former teacher**) turned up in total, which surprised everyone present - we very much enjoyed each other's company. During the tour we exchanged memories of this and that ... there was a certain satisfaction to find the "bar" unchanged after all these years ... some could not resist to have a little dance down there, too.

Among those who attended were: **Harry Aldrich-Blake** (1994-99), **Tara Beedle** (née Sleggs) (1991-99), **Theo Berry** (1993-99), **Louise Bongiovanni** (1997-99), **Nina Breitfeld** (1997-99), **Florian Brenner** (1997-99), **Laura Donovan** (1991-99), **Thom Gilbert** (1992-99), **Jenny Long** (née Mais) (1994-99), **Dom Morris** (1994-99), **Joe Schinzler** (1996-99), **James Starkey** (1992-99), **Gemma Thomasin-Foster** (née Leathart), **Barbara Unger** (1997-99), **Ian Salt-Forster** (1994-99), **Philippa Shipper** (née Hunt) (1994-99) **Phil Webb** (1992-99).

Statistics:

* 3 ORs (Joe, Flo, Barbara) flew in from Germany, 1 OR (Nina) from Switzerland, 1 OR (Louise) drove all the way from France and 1 OR (Sophie) came over from Wales = people were really making an effort!

** As it turned out, Ian Salt-Forster's wife used to teach Biology at Rendcomb before they had their son about 3 years ago.



25 YEARS ON

On Saturday 15th July 17 ORs, who left 25 years ago in 1992, met at the Bathhurst Arms. We had to choose this date instead of the official OR day as several people were in the UK from abroad. **Julian Madeley** from Thailand, **Sarah Baker** (née Langley) from Australia and **Linda Eklof** from Finland. Many more sent apologies, amongst them **Graham Lawton** on a posting with the Army in Sudan, **James Grafton** and **Henry Pugh** in the States, **Sarah Pike** (née Thayne) in Australia, **Clair Watson** in UAE and **Hamish Auld** leading a D of E Expedition of his own this time. We enjoyed a buffet lunch and drinks to the tune of 1990's hits of our day. Whilst smaller groups have kept in touch over the years this was the first time we had attempted a whole year Reunion. It was amazing how easy it was to pick up with each other again and fill in on the intervening years. After lunch we took a wander along the Churn to Rendcomb and although the College was preparing for a private function that evening no one seemed to mind us wandering about down memory lane... and back via the Wildie. The Stage saw reenactments of fights long ago. In the Church, accompanied by **Paul Irving** and **Paul Sumsion**, both now Vicars, we thought of Reverend Sudbury and those Sunday services, and also of those no longer with us, **Graham Bennett** (1974-1995) in particular. Some of us later went on to Cheltenham to continue the evening and all left with the promise to not leave it so long next time.



From left to right

Julian Madeley, Tim Underwood, Sophy Layzell (née Denny), Andrew Pollard, Annitta Engel (née Duguid), Paul Sumsion. Zoe Elliot (née Davis), Anthony Palin, Kathryn Hodgkinson, Sam Cato, Sonya Grubb (née Naish), Jon Powell, Linda Eklof, John Wheeler, Patricia Houchell (née Renny), Matt Smith, Paul Irving with son Joseph.

Missing from picture **Sarah Baker (née Langley)** who arrived later in the evening.



30 YEARS ON



There was an excellent turnout for the 30 years on organised by **Alex Brealy** and **Iain Whittaker**. See page 8 for full attendance list.



CONGRATULATIONS

Megan Mulhall (2004-12) a 1st Class Honours degree in Events Management from Cardiff Metropolitan.

Jack Pethick (2006 -13) a Pass with Merit in MSc Environment, Politics and Society from UCL

Charlotte Clements (2005-11) received her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award at St James' Palace in 2017.

Charlotte Stedman (2002-10) 1st Class Honours degree in Early Years Development and Learning from Norland College.

Luke Nixon (2009-14) 1st Class Honours degree in Theatre in Drama, University of South Wales.

Russell Taylor (2001-11) MA with Merit in English Literature at Swansea University.

Richard Collins (2001-08) DPhil in Inorganic Chemistry, Linacre College, University of Oxford 2016.

Christian Couch (2005-12) 1st Class Honours degree in Computer Science with Business, Bath University.

Greg Dorey (1967-73) in becoming Sub-Treasurer (i.e. CEO) of the Inner Temple.



Jim (Staff: 1989-2013) and **Pearl Hardy** (Staff: 1991-2013) and **Joy** (Staff: 1979-2011) and **Barry Hardy** celebrated their double golden wedding in August 2107. Two brothers married two sisters.



BIRTHS

To **Beth** (née Sampson) (2000-07) and Jonathan **Davies** a son Beau William, June 2017, a brother for Reuben Hugo, born April 2016
To **Anthony** (1983-90) Miles and Hannah, a daughter Elodie May 2017
To **James** (1990-97) and Yuan **Smith** a son, Oliver, August 2017.
To: **Hannah** (née Field) (2008-2010) and Grant **Welensky** a son Logan David, September 2017.

IORA AND FRIENDS CONCERT 13th JANUARY 2018

When IORA (**Holly Phelps** (2001-2012)) released her first single in July 2017, it occurred to her Auntie **Jane** that it might be good to put on a concert at the new Performing Arts Centre, The Griffin, at Rendcomb to draw attention to both the venue and the artist. She duly contacted Harriet Hall, the new events director at the College, to see if it was a possibility.



FORCE OF HABIT– Lance Baynham & Cormac Connelly-Smith



Before they had met, Jane was contacted by Angela

Baynham mother of **Lance** (2003-2013) wanting to provide a venue for Lance and his comedy partner, Cormac Connelly-Smith to perform some of their sketches and so IORA and Friends, a night of music and comedy, was born.



Mark Gunner

It was quickly agreed that more acts were needed and so **Mark Gunner** (2001-2008) was roped in and a chance meeting at the alumni tournament hockey match at Dean Close, had **Charlie** (Charlotte) **Clements** (2005-2011) and **Ed Slark** (2001-2011) kindly agreeing to take part. With the addition of **Luke Nixon** (2009-2014) we now had our line-up.



Ed Slark & Charlie Clements

This was to be the first big external event at the Griffin, so there was a lot of nervous energy about but as soon as the doors opened there was a buzz of excitement and expectation. In true Rendcomb style everyone pulled together to make the event a success. Angela took tickets, Rendcomb ran the bar, **Lance Baynham** and Cormac Connelly-Smith skilfully compered the evening, **Mark Naylor** (staff 1997-2017) sold the programmes, which

were sponsored by Louise and **John Henniker-Gotley** (1973-1978) and the Whiteway Farmhouse team filled in gaps, organising the car parking and ushering people to their seats.

Special mention must go to Nanette Randall (**Lance's** Granny) who masterminded advertising the event up the length of the Churn Valley and **Luke Gunner** (1998-2005) who in the space of two hours collected **Luke Nixon**, who had had a timetable malfunction, from Kemble Station, seen to the rescue of a sheep which was out on the main road and then helped with the car parking on a very cold night.

As the auditorium doors were closed and the lights dimmed, a cry of 'we love you Mark' set the tone for the evening and the audience of Rendcomb pupils, Old Rendcombians, parents, past parents, staff, past staff, villagers and other well-wishers were treated to some wonderful performances such that there was a party atmosphere at the interval and euphoria at the end that it had all gone so well.

The concert had been put on to promote young talent, showcase the new Performing Arts Centre and if possible raise money for a local charity and the College. We were delighted that we managed to achieve all three aims with Cirencester Housing for Young People, Charity No: 299821 benefiting to the tune of nearly £600 and the College making a similar amount. Thanks to everyone involved and particularly to Harriet Hall, the technicians, Andy Webb and Will Mercer and the artists:



Mark Gunner: (2001-2008) who now lives in London. Mark blends folk, pop and R&B on his acoustic bass, using no looping or backing tracks, but creating full and varied acoustic sounds with his bass and vocals. Mark has been playing progressive bass styles and techniques for years, including playing on BBC Introducing in Leeds and with the

band Lightshape that mixed Indie and Dubstep using live instruments and more recently working as a session bassist in Instrumental Techno concepts, playing at small festivals in the London area.

This current concept takes the progressive jazz-bass techniques of Jaco Pastorius and Victor Wooten with the one-man-band full acoustic quality of the likes of Newton Faulkner, to make an easy-going but captivating soundtrack, full of catchy melodies and thoughtful lyrics of love and sentiment. Mark's first single "I Can Only" is available on all major music platforms.

Luke Nixon – Bromley South & Me: (2009-2014) is a recent first-class honours graduate in Theatre Studies at the University of South Wales. Luke is already a veteran of the Edinburgh Fringe as co-writer and director of Faith and Horrids, picking up four stars from EdFringe Review and being listed in the top ten free



fringe shows of Edinburgh Fringe 2015. He has worked in many of London's West End theatres and is Co-Producing a new pod cast - Are You Feeling Funny? where top comedians such as Stewart Lee, Shappi Khorsandi and Phil Wang are interviewed by a Harley St Doctor. Luke's also co-written a new comedy musical titled Jesus & Lucifer: The Greatest Love Story Never Told, which played at the Canal Café Theatre in London from February 2nd-10th and went on to the prestigious King's Head Theatre in March. What we saw, he says, was cobbled together on the train.

Charlie Clements (2005-2011) and **Ed Slark** (2001-2011) have been singing together since their Rendcomb days in both choir and chamber



choir. They were really excited to be reviving some of their duet and solo pieces. They were accompanied by John



Wright who is an organist and freelance musician.



Lance Baynham (2003-2013) and **Cormac Connelly-Smith**: Lance teamed up with Cormac Connelly-Smith to form Force of Habit whilst they were supposedly studying for their history degrees at St Benet's Hall, Oxford.

Armstrong and Miller, Mitchell and Webb: just a couple of comedy duos that Lance and Cormac can never hope to emulate. Having spent the three years at Oxford being not particularly funny, they now plan on taking that mediocrity to the stage for all to enjoy.

Before this, their first major performance was at The Cavendish Arms in Stockwell, London in November 2017.

IORA: Holly Phelps (2001-2012) known as IORA, moved to Manchester to study song writing at the University of British and Irish Music in 2016. She is a folk-influenced singer, inspired by both life in the country and the city and is accompanied by Sayon Beaufort-Harwood on drums and Tom Ashton on bass guitar.

Holly combines vocal and instrumental harmonies and marries them with electronic samples and sounds. This intriguing mix blends folk tones, a versatile voice and haunting arrangements.

The 23 year-old singer-songwriter has been well received around Manchester, performing at the Soup Kitchen and other popular venues, with

exceptional reviews from the Manchester Evening Post. She was on the 2017 festival circuit including appearing at 2,000 Trees Cheltenham and Dot-to-Dot festival in Manchester.

IORA's single 'Thieves' Den' was released in July 2017 and is about bravado, frustration and tension that people carry around with them and is available in iTunes. It has been featured regularly on BBC Manchester Introducing and IORA was a nomination by them on the Jo Whiley Radio 2 programme as one to watch in 2018. Her latest single 'Minator Mind' was aired live on BBC MI in January. Holly's passion for the countryside has fuelled her music. She said:



"I'm influenced by the rawness of the countryside and the urgency of the city. I tell stories and I'm fascinated with melodies and musical delivery. My roots really influence my work and help to create rich and emotive lyrics, contrasted with moments of raw drama.

Live I use a lot of loops and electronic instruments to build songs that will stay with you. I hope you catch me at one of my shows in the town or the country"!



Holly's single 'Human Touch' is being released in aid of Lifeshare Manchester. (Charity No: 1042500)

Such was the success of the event we are working to do the next one in January 2020. If you would like to be included in the line up please let Jane Gunner, Angela Baynham or Harriet Hall know.



MARRIAGES



Richard Burden (1997-2004) married *Alice Turner* in May 2017 in Bridport, Dorset, **Frances Burden** (1995-2002) was one of the bridesmaids.



Left to right: Graham Checksfield, Frances Burden, Alice Turner, Richard Burden, Dorothy Burden, Colin Burden (Staff 1963-1997)

Jade Harrison (2002-07) married Dafydd Loughran at St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb in June 2017. Rev. **Bob Edy** (1959-67, staff: 2015-) conducted the service. ORs attending were **Amanda Graham** (2000-07), **Beth Davies** (née Sampson) and **Richard Whittles** (2002-07).





The Reception was held at the College and co-ordinated by **Mark Naylor** (Staff: 1998-2017) and following his retirement by Phil Strongman and Charlotte Jones. Photographs by Simon Gough Photography.





Ella Roach (2004-10) married Tom Smith in August 2017 at St Peters Church, Stanway. Her brother, **Jack** (2006-08), is also an OR



Ella's bridesmaids were **Anjali Patel** (2008-10), **Emily Williams** (2005-10), **Hannah Williams** (2007-12)



Peter Liang (1998-2005) married Sophie Rosa in September 2017 in Cheshire. They are both professional violinists living in Cheshire.



ORs at the wedding were **Simon Wong** (2002-06) best man, **Rupert Uzzell** (1998-05), **Matthew Nichols** (2002-05), **Gill Day** (Staff) took the photo.

Laurie Wilcox (2001-08) married Katie Hill in September 2017 in Surrey.



Mark Gunner (2001-08) was best man.





ORs present included **Amy Scofield** (2001-08), **Richard Collins** (2001-08), **Charlie Stutchbury** (2001-08), **Sinead Brennan** (2001-09)

Mark Gunner (2001-08), **Emily Apps** (2004-08), **James Bladen** (2001-06), **Laurie Wilcox** (2001-08)



Mark Wilcox (1973-80) father of the bridegroom, **Alex Jordan** (2004-08), **John Newton** (2003-08), **Emily Slark** (2006-08), **Joe Scott** (2001-08)

STAFF RETIREMENTS



Peter Cairns, Pete as I am sure many of you will have known him, came from a long line of his family who worked at Rendcomb. His brothers Paul as a member of the Works Team and latterly Works Manager and Les who would often help with special projects and his mother, Joan, who worked for over 30 years in the kitchen and retired in 1996. His wife, Mary, who



retired at Christmas has been on the housekeeping team for 25 years and has done evening duty at Stable House for 5 years.

At 12 years old Pete could often be found after school in the kitchen washing up, helping his mother, this was a regular role for him from 1972 to 1976 at which point he spread his wings and went to train and qualify as a farrier. “Pete The Feet” was born and his love of working with animals continued and indeed a menagerie of animals was accumulated over the years, bringing him and students many hours of pleasure but alas, also heart ache, his Shetland ponies were always a firm favourite with students. It was Pete who worked to reinstate the Deer Park above the Golf Course in Rendcomb Park, a feature that would have been there when the Manor was built and is enjoyed today by many a student and visitor.

In 1996 Pete returned to Rendcomb where his brother Paul was now Works Manager and he was appointed as his deputy, moving into the village that he had known so well from his childhood in 1997. In 2008 he took up the baton of Works Manager, quickly adding to his portfolio roles of the Health and Safety Officer, Mini Bus Trainer, Fire Safety Trainer and a plethora of other titles and duties. He became “the ‘go to’ guy”, be it the teacher who had a

flat battery in their car, the drama teacher who wanted a complex stage set making for a College play, or the student who had something that wanted fixing, Pete could and did turn his skilful hands to anything. Pete immersed himself in both the College and the village. He became Chair of the Parish



Council making sure things got done, and I am sure many a student did not appreciate, how, when there was snow, Pete would work through the night keeping the road cleared so parents could still make it in with their children and school would not close! When the Junior School opened, a call went out for Father Christmas and sure enough Pete was able to fix that too, although he never quite managed, but tried, to bring Dancer and Prancer to the party.



Clay Pigeon Shooting was a life long passion of his and for many years he helped and supported **James Stutchbury** (Staff: 1993-2015) in providing this much loved and enjoyed activity, latterly taking overall charge and growing the interest and achievements that pupils, staff and parents alike

enjoyed, taking on some of the “Big Guns” amongst other schools and bringing success to Rendcomb.



Pete would be the first to admit that there were bumps and scrapes along the way, but with Pete he was Rendcomb through and through. His affection for his job, the College, the students and the village shone bright. He will be missed by many but remembered with love and affection by even more. Our best wishes go

with you, Pete and Mary, as you move together to a new and exciting time for you both.



Pete pictured after he had won the prestigious Outstanding Contribution Award in 2011 at a national awards ceremony as part of the Ardant Good Schools show in London.

Stephen Clark (Staff: 2003-18) Mr. Clark is the sort of teacher who will teach willingly, diligently and generally excellently, in spite of the pupil's best efforts. A patient, mild-mannered man, who is willing to take the time to build a rapport with the young people in his class. At A2 year the timetables fell in such a way that we'd have double Maths, Further-Maths in the morning and double Further Maths, Maths in the afternoon (with an even luckier few having Physics in the late afternoon lessons). Having the same teacher for six lessons in a day would be a stretch for almost any subject, let alone one with such dry content, but Mr. Clark managed to keep us going and keep us learning, and somehow to keep it interesting. Having now gone

into a career of aerospace electronics, I'm very grateful for the time and effort Mr. Clark put into those days. Another memory I have of his teaching was the beginning pep talk of Further Maths, where he told us: "If you're in this class, then I expect that every one of you is a naturally better mathematician than I am", but he soon realised that this was rather distant from the truth where I was concerned once he got to know me better. Teaching Maths often appeared to be an exercise in dealing with children who are proudly determined not to want to be there, so I dare say that after all this time Mr. Clark deserves to be in a room not filled with children vying to be kicked out of the lesson first, and wish him all the best in whatever he chooses to do from now on. May he have a wonderful time.

Mark Gunner (2001-08)



When I was invited to write something for Mr Clark's upcoming retirement I couldn't help but smile. I was very fortunate to be taught maths by Mr Clark for several years; he had a profound influence on both my further education and career. For this I cannot thank him enough.

As a teacher, Mr. Clark showed amazing patience and passion in a subject that (as an obvious understatement) is not every student's favourite.

Catering to all levels and battling against the challenges of a maths classroom, Mr. Clark tackled these problems head on and although he may have felt drained by the end of each class the students certainly left richer for it. I distinctly remember having 6 out of my 8 lessons on a Friday with Mr. Clark in the same room; his depth of knowledge that allowed him to jump from pure mathematics to mechanical, statistical or in humouring our abstract questions was remarkable. He even let Mark and me bring in some "home comforts" for our prolonged stay in his class.

Outside of the classroom Mr. Clark showed many of his other attributes, be it with a sharp Cruyff turn and displaying an eye for a through ball in the staff-student football games through to his lovely attitude and support for students while around stable block.

I am confident that I can speak on behalf of my peers in thanking Mr. Clark for all his efforts and wishing him all the best for his upcoming retirement. I hope our paths cross again.

Richard Collins (2001-08)



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that the Society has learnt of the deaths of the following people. Our deepest sympathy goes to their families and friends.

Jean Quick sadly died in September 2017. She was the wife of Anthony Quick who was appointed Headmaster in 1961. Her funeral was held at Holne on Dartmoor. **Bill White** (Staff 1961-97) writes:
1961 in my opinion was a pivotal year in the history of Rendcomb College. The Governors were eager for the school to be expanded. In the next ten years, while Anthony Quick was Headmaster, this expansion took place steadily. Over this period, numbers of pupils rose from 90 to 150. There was a remarkable building programme which included the Headmaster's house, the swimming pool, the Arts Block, the study bedroom extension (now the junior school), the extension of the playing fields, the squash courts and improvements in the Science Department to name but a few. Rendcomb also began to have much more contact locally and in Cirencester: this was partly because Jean took her younger children to schools in Cirencester and so got to know a lot of people locally. Her easy social manner and good sense of humour helped her to make new friends easily and was quickly appreciated by pupils and staff at the college. Anthony and Jean were very hospitable hosts and soon enlarged their circle of friends to include many local families, among whom they were very popular. Jean involved herself in school activities whenever time allowed from her duties of bringing up her family. Her kindness and understanding contributed greatly to continuing the Rendcomb tradition of a "family atmosphere" which was the Founder's ethos for the school. Her amused toleration of Anthony's mild eccentricities only added to our appreciation of her delightful character. We missed them all greatly when they moved to Bradfield. Their youngest children were both educated at Rendcomb: **James** (1975-80) now Headmaster of the Junior School at Gresham's, Holt and **Jonathan** (1979-86) who runs a travel agency in Cheltenham.

Neville, Lt Col the Lord Wigram MC died in May 2017, he had been a governor of the College for many years.

The Society was saddened to learn of the death of **John Gooch** (1951-60) from cancer in August 2017. He had read Electrical Engineering at Birmingham University obtaining a 2:1 despite contracting mumps just

before the Final exams. He went on to work in the Power Industry eventually settling his family in Pembrokeshire. He loved trains having a particular interest in the Ffestiniog Railway. He also loved Rendcomb and talked about the College through his life.

William Nesham (1965-70) died in Australia in January 2017. **Bill White** attended a family gathering in June when William's ashes were scattered on the Cotswold Hills near Upton St. Leonard's where he lived as child.

Extracts from the tribute to William from his sisters, Roberta, Tamsin and Benedicta at the funeral read as follows:

William was born in Gloucestershire in 1952, in the house we all grew up in. There were roses and snap-dragons in the garden, we were "young and easy under the apple boughs" as Dylan Thomas put it, and William roamed the hills as "huntsman and herdsman". Literally, when he shot a pigeon on the last day of the holidays which Ma then cooked and sent with him to boarding school. Boarding school had not been easy for William; dyslexia was less recognized then than it is today and then it took him a while to find his eventual niche as a programmer. But his 20s were rich in experience. He briefly studied film technique, worked on a Gloucesterhire farm during the lambing season and then headed out here (Australia) where he worked as deck hand on a prawn trawler, the railway yards during the Brisbane floods of 1974 and finally down a goldmine in Tennant Creek before heading home. It is a sign of how times have changed that he carried his worldly possessions through Heathrow in a bag labelled "Explosives".

Back in the UK he worked as a roustabout on North Sea oilrigs, colder and wetter than Tennant Creek. After a chance conversation in a pub, he realized his passport was stamped with a resident's visa and he could come back here to live if he did so within a certain time. He made it with 48 hours to spare and stayed for the rest of his life.

In Sydney he found his spiritual home in St Peter's when he moved to Cremona in 1998. He was very aware of God working his purpose out as year succeeds to year and he inherited some family furniture after Mum died. He was sitting at the desk used first by our great-grandfather, and later by our father for their parish work, when he wrote to tell us he was about to become Church Warden. Below is the prayer he composed.

Oh Lord, give me the wisdom to seek your forgiveness for my failings and to accept your blessings for my success. Help me keep your forgiveness close to my heart and to show your blessings to the world.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR R.I.G. HALE from his son William Hale



Major Rudolph Ivor "Gordon" HALE (1939-46). Born on Monday 20th February 1928 in Hartpury to Hubert and Vera HALE. Sadly, Gordon's mother passed away in child birth when he was only seven years old and in 1935 his father, sister Pearl and he moved to 1 Bell Cottage, Maisemore and some years later his father remarried Alice Hannis. Gordon (or Rudy as he was known at home) attended the local school and won a prestigious scholarship to Rendcomb College. On leaving there he enlisted in the regular army and ended up in the Royal Army Education Corps where he achieved the

rank of Major and travelled extensively. He was a qualified teacher, teaching maths before retiring in 1983. In 1952 Gordon married Elizabeth Ann ROSE and they had two children, William and Anna. The marriage was dissolved in 1982. On retiring from the Army in 1983 Gordon continued to work as a Bursar for an English school and at the same time took up residence in Germany with his partner Almut Breit who he lived with until his death.

Gordon was a very keen sportsman and won numerous winners medals in a variety of sports including cricket, hockey, rugby, football and squash. Cricket was his favourite sport and he had the proud honour of scoring the first century at the new Chepstow CC Bulwark ground for which he was mentioned in a book entitled "Chepstow Cricket Club the First 150 Years 1838-1988". He also contributed to another book called "Peas, Pigs and Poetry" by Fiona Mead.

Outside of work and sports, Gordon loved to read and was fortunate enough to absorb this knowledge. You could say he was a walking encyclopaedia as his knowledge of just about everything was second to none. He could recollect occasions, people and dates. He loved nothing better than to tax his brain and would frequently be found solving puzzles and crosswords, especially The Saturday Times cryptic prize crossword. He was fortunate

enough to win the top prize in these competitions including The Saturday Times cryptic prize crossword, although he mainly did them for fun. Gordon was also a lover of nature and there wasn't much about fauna and flora that he didn't know about and was a member of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Gordon was also an avid stamp collector amassing a large and impressive stamp collection.

Gordon never forgot his roots in Maisemore and up until a few years ago would spend a couple weeks visiting family and friends in the UK to catch up with news and up until recently still kept in touch by phone and letters. Gordon sadly passed away on Sunday 4th February 2018 in a senior citizens home in Fischbeck, Germany.



Gordon (pictured left) was an excellent correspondent and continued to keep in touch with both **Jane Gunner** and **Bill White** right up until Christmas 2017.

David Smith (1936-44) died in August 2017.

Penny Wood

The funeral at Pershore Abbey was a splendid tribute to Penny. The carefully constructed and poignant service drew attention to Penny's life; the Abbey was filled with local people representing the various groups to which she belonged. Rendcomb was well represented too.



Suzanne Denley, Chris and Penny and Anja Walker née Beaver in 1990

Penny was such a great character. We shall miss her sense of fun, her common sense and determination, qualities much in evidence when she and Chris ran the Old Rectory and also in her various positions as treasurer or chairman of local groups both in Pershore and Northleach. We admired her determination when coping with traumatic incidents such as her bad car accident, her sledging accident and, of course, the sad loss of their son, David.

Penny was one of those people whose kindness affected everyone around her. But perhaps it was her resilience in the face of steadily deteriorating health which was particularly remarkable as she found getting about increasingly difficult. She would not have been able to cope without Chris's patient, constant and loving care and help. We shall miss Penny and remember her as a special friend who touched the lives of many of us in many different ways. **Bill White** (Staff 1961-1997)

The tribute to **Penny** given at her funeral written by her sister, Pauline: We are here to celebrate Penny's life. She was 'our Pen' to the family and close friends, but never Penelope. As a child she was always full of fun, mischievous, outspoken and often in trouble with Mum and Dad. She was a frequent A & E visitor having dislocated her shoulder, broken her arm and stuffed dried peas up her nose. In 1978 Penny had a far more serious accident driving home from work.

This contributed to her knee problems in later life affecting her mobility, not to mention the broken leg from a sledging accident.

In her teenage years she was an infuriating gooseberry to her sister and future brother in law but a charming young bridesmaid. A lifelong love of swimming began at the Alstone Baths in Cheltenham (now Waitrose) and included synchronised swimming. She thoroughly enjoyed watching water polo at the London Olympics and swam at Evesham Pool until last year, always relishing the chats and cappuccinos with her fellow swimmers afterwards.

Her life working in healthcare began at Cheltenham General Hospital. She worked in the doctors' surgery at Rendcomb in Gloucestershire and National Star College for the disabled; a very physically and emotionally demanding job. When Chris and Penny moved to Northleach, she helped with the care of Lizzie, her neighbour's daughter. Lizzie loved Penny. She was ideally suited for her role as houseparent during the 10 years that Chris and Penny ran the Old Rectory, the boarding house for 11 and 12 year olds at Rendcomb College.

A former pupil wrote: 'Penny was a wonderful woman and will be fondly remembered by hundreds of boys to whom she served as Mum in our formative boarding years. Always smiling, she was one of the world's special and caring women.'

Another wrote: 'I remember Mrs Wood as such a fun and jolly housemother but cross her and you would know! You would never do it again due to the guilt you felt for upsetting such a caring person.'

In addition to this, and of course bringing up Pippa and walking the dogs, she found time to help with school plays, cricket scoring, trips abroad and first mate on many boarding house canal boat holidays.

She always involved herself fully in the life of the community such as running Brownies at North Cerney.

This from someone who lived in Rendcomb: 'I will always remember her infectious laugh and the wonderful fun we had carol singing around the village at Christmas time.'

In Northleach she was a member of the WI, never afraid to speak her mind but equally prepared to volunteer. She continued this approach to things after moving to Pershore where she joined the Ladies Guild and performed with the Gilded Lilies, her party piece being 'Giving the Cat a Pill'. She always spoke her mind and was a firm supporter of the underdog. As you will hear later she was also involved with many activities associated with the Abbey.

In 2007 Chris and Penny bought a Mazda MX-5 and so began their involvement with the owners club. Here they made so many new friends. They were soon organising monthly drives and Penny always enjoyed the wind in her hair.

In everything she did she enjoyed planning and organising. This ranged from family holidays and get-togethers to knitting groups. She particularly enjoyed family holidays in Bournemouth. A list had to be made for everything and Chris is still finding them!

The move to Pershore in 2012 was a very happy one for Penny. She enjoyed planning her garden from scratch and undoubtedly increased the profits of St Peter's Garden Centre.

Penny was a patient and loving Mum to Pippa, fully supporting the ownership of her horse during school years, her career path and the construction of the canal boat. Everything Penny did for Pippa was done with care, forgiveness and love to give her daughter the wings and confidence required to flourish. She was so happy when Pippa met Adrian and by the arrival of her granddaughter Lily last July.

This last year was really difficult for her but her positive approach to the illness is an inspiration to us all.

Penny was a lovely person, always cheerful with a wicked sense of humour, totally generous, a loving wife of 41 years, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and a true friend.

Amongst those represented by the Society were:



Jess Weston (1998-2005)
Des Knox (1970-75)
Gerry and Liese Holden
(Headmaster: 1999-2011)
Judy Hunt (Staff: 1996-2010)
Martin and Aileen Graham
(Staff: 1985-2017)
Sophie Worlock (1997-99)
Julie Rogers (Staff: 1987-2015)
Sam Gunner (1996-2003)
Charlotte Walpole (past parent)
Fiona Trumper (2002-2009)
Nigel Powell (1967-74)
Luke Gunner (1998-2005)
Mark Gunner (2001-2008)
Claire Germaine (1990-1993)

Penny Wood – Funeral attendance

Old Rendcombians

Julian Gray	64-71
David Williams	66-71
Andy Stafford	66-71
Brian Smith	65-72
Hamis Auld	85-92
Sarah Hawkeswell	83-85
Jane Gunner	75-77
Jennifer Phelps	78-80
Chris Pulford	70-77
Andy Branston	87-92
Sam Maylott	91-98
David Hughes	91-98
Scott Vernon	
Anya Walker	88-90
(representing Susanne Walker)	

Past Staff

Mark Naylor	98-17
Christine Johnson	03-16
David Hawkeswell	73-93 and Joan Hawkeswell
Mike Newby	78-96 and Joan Newby
Colin Burden	66-97 and Dorothy Burden
Kim Taplin	97-01 and Chryssa Taplin
David White	89-04 and Judy White
Bridget Goldsmith	88-93
Anne Holt	68-96
Charlotte Holdaway	70-94
Bill White	61-97
Paul Sykes	82-03
Carlo Voulo	96-13
Margaret Knapp	
re family	60-90
John Willson	67-88
Joy Gibson	95-12
Denis Price	69-90 and Mary Price
Alison Morgan representing	
Bobby Morgan	90-07
Esther Morgan	
Ron Kelsey	69-95 and Joyce Kelsey
John Tolputt	87-99 and Patta
Mike Stark	92-13

Present Staff

Alex (82-87) and Amanda Brealy
Carol Endersby
Thierry Francois
Hugh Marsden
Sue Thomas
Rachel Fielding

Governors

Linda Singer
Richard Wills

Past Parents

Jackie Auld
Simon and Heather Banks
Richard Gunner
Isabelle Branston
Ernie, Josie and Carol Talbot
representing John Talbot

Chris would like to thank all those sent cards and letters of condolence but especially those who attended the Penny's funeral.

Stuart Honeyball (1968-75).

Stu died on 28 March 2018 of secondary cancer at St Peter's Hospice in Keynsham.



Those who knew him at Rendcomb will remember him as eccentric and humorous, good at science, music and electronics. In his later years he became an upstanding member of the community, so some people would be surprised to learn that he was once one of the worst rascals in the school. There was no malice in his behaviour, but he saw the College's authority as something that was fun to undermine. A good example of this was when he and **Andrew Otter** went AWOL in the third form: they got a packed lunch one Sunday, giving their intended destination as Chedworth, but didn't turn up for teatime callover. They had acquired camping equipment from somewhere, and got on the train to the north. After a few days of freedom, the police nabbed them when they couldn't explain why they

weren't in school. I think they were balustraded* for three weeks as a punishment. A while ago I asked **Stu** why they did it - he said he couldn't remember, but probably just for the hell of it.



In 6A we were accommodated in Park House, and locked in at a certain time of the evening. This was a problem for smokers as they would want to go up the Wildie for their late-night fag: one means of escape was the fire exit, the key to which was in a sealed glass-fronted case. **Stu** worked out that you could open it by sticking a pin through the casing and releasing the catch, so he took the key out and had a copy made in Ciren. He was caught outside at some

point, and brought before **Roger Medill** (Headmaster 1971-87), who asked him how he had got out. Rather than reveal the truth, **Stu** told him that he had photographed the key through the glass and had a duplicate made from the photo. Despite the obvious implausibility, Roger accepted it and he ordered the glass in the key-case to be painted to prevent this being done again. Obviously that didn't work, and the excursions continued.



Eventually the staff figured it out and replaced the key-case with something more tamper-proof. That stopped the problem for a while, but **Stu** just waited for the next fire practice and smashed the case open with a chair leg, pretending he thought it was a real fire.

After leaving Rendcomb he went to Sheffield University to do computing and electronics, which led to him getting a job with Clive Sinclair. Then he set up his own business, Miracle Systems, which made hardware enhancements for the QL computer. He was successful enough for him to be able to give up work by the age of 50 when he retired to Yate and married Karin. In these later years I saw a lot of **Stu**, he was good company and a kind, supportive friend.

Des Knox (1970-75)

"An enigma has left the room." - **Mike James** (1968-75)

* balustraded – not allowed beyond the balustrades on the terrace during free time.

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Registered Charity No. 290373

Chairman: Richard Wills, Governor and Rendcomb College Trustee
appointed 2004

Executive Trustee: Mark Naylor (Staff : 1998-2017) appointed 2017

Jane Gunner – (née Watson) OR (1975-77), Hon. Sec. OR Society, former
parent.

Colin Burden – (Staff: 1963-97)

Rob Jones - Headmaster (2015-), Ex Officio

Keith Winmill – OR (1972-79)

Richard Law – OR (1964-70)

Dr Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan) – OR (1974-76), former parent

Jessica Weston – OR (1998-2005), OR Vice-Chairman

Patrick Boydell – OR (1988-95)

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heather and **Mark Naylor** (Staff: 1998-2017) wrote to The Old
Rendcombian Society:

Thank you for a lovely evening which both Heather and I enjoyed very
much, Bill's kind words and the most generous gift of the Bird Bath, which
is being enjoyed by both the birds and the bees, as well as us both. I have
always looked forward to meeting and hearing the many stories from the
annual reunions over the years and truly believe that there was much fun had
by many without a huge regard to current Health and Safety. I know that the
very kind travel bursaries you award have in so many cases had a profound
and lasting effect on ex students and tales of adventure and excitement have
been relayed to me following their trips abroad and in many cases have
surprised and enlightened young minds.

Many, many thanks and both Heather and I hope the camaraderie and lasting
friendships continue for many years to come at Rendcomb.

Martin Graham (Staff: 1985-2017) wrote

Many thanks for the wonderful send-off on Sunday 1st – it was a lovely
occasion, and the Rendcomb print now occupies pride of place on the wall
as you walk into our house!

Thank you also for the very generous gift from the OR Society. As I
mentioned to you at the time I'd like to use it for something permanent and

lasting, but at the moment I am not sure what. I'm inclining towards the idea of replacing parts of my ageing hi-fi system, but I will let you know officially when I've got more definite news!

You asked whether you could have a copy of my speech for the record. Although it was partially extempore, my daughter Amanda actually recorded it (!) and has sent me a file of it, so I should be able to make an accurate transcript for you. I'll get on with that and give you a copy in the next few days.



Amanda (2000-07), Aileen, Martin (Staff: 1985-2017), Laura Graham (2000-10), Sinead Brennan (2001-09), Alex Jones (2005-10) and guest at the Summer 2017 reunion.

ST PETER'S CHURCH UPDATE

I am sure that when we all were at school, we felt that the day was filled with work and play. But it really does seem that today's school children are more pressurised with expectations to do well, not only in exams but in sports teams, orchestras, drama etc. All these things are necessary to show that you are a 'well rounded' person in your personal statement when

applying for university. It is therefore important that they spend at least half an hour a week, quietly in Church, contemplating life and other people that are important in their lives. I am sure that many of you will fondly remember the stability that St Peter's offered in your busy school days.

We have been very fortunate to have some wonderful College chaplains. I have been living in the village for nearly 30 years and particularly remember Peter Sudbury and Kim Taplin. Today we are very fortunate to have the Rev'd Bob Edy, supported by his wife Ruth, who add so much richness to the lives of the pupils and so generously give their time to looking after the parishioners in the Village.

At the annual PCC meeting we were congratulated by our Benefice priest, the Rev'd David Minns, for being an active forward-looking Committee and trying to engage with the wider community. Last year we held a Pets' Service with a multitude of dogs and one rabbit who felt lucky to survive the afternoon! Despite torrential rain proceedings continued and we were fortunate that the sun appeared at tea time. The Christingle service is proving to be a very popular date in the diary at Christmas.

However, as well as arranging events and services, there is the other side of church life – maintaining our Grade 1 listed building for future generations. The lack of noticeable heating has been an issue for some time so after much research, it has been decided that new electric heating panels in front of each pew is the way forward. This will definitely make the Church a great deal warmer and encourage more people to come. This is a big undertaking but we shall be applying for grants and fundraising.

We have just launched the Friends of St Peter's Church. We would be delighted if you would like to become a Friend and keep up to date with our news and progress. A form is enclosed and we hope you will join.

If you feel that you that you are able to give any financial help we would be most grateful. Please contact me by email: annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk, by telephone 01285 831686 or send cheques to St Peter's Church Rendcomb, c/o The Old House, Rendcomb, Cirencester GL7 7EY
Thank you and perhaps when you are next at Rendcomb you will pay us a visit.

Annabel Purcell Treasurer

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS



Nick Roberts (1968-74) wrote to Jane in February:

Elaine (née Finney) (1972-74) and I are now settled in Uganda to be near our grandchildren. We moved back here from Samoa in the Pacific, my last full-time job working as adviser to the Samoan Government for the EU development programme (2007-2012). My son built a safari lodge at Lake Mburo National Park in Uganda, [Rwakobo Rock](http://www.rwakoborock.com) (www.rwakoborock.com), which opened in 2012, and is doing very well. I work part-time as an adviser to the Ministry of Finance in Uganda on public finance management reform, with occasional consultancies on coordination and monitoring. We have bought 27 acres of indigenous forest on a hill close to Entebbe and have constructed a house overlooking an extensive swamp (Mabamba), where tourists come to see the Shoebill and other birds. We are currently building a small lodge (Nkima Forest Lodge), which we hope will open in mid-2018. ORs will all be welcome!

Richard Pearce (1966 - 1972) writes that he retired from the NHS in October 2014 and then signed up for voluntary work at Attingham Park which is his local National Trust property. He is on one of the outdoor parkland teams doing work that is a lot more physical than anything he ever did in the NHS!

Joe Watson's (1971-78) firm Cotswold Estates and Gardens Ltd was back at the RHS Malvern Spring Show in May 2017. A last minute request saw them construct the Ocean Garden in the Spa Gardens category for designer Michel Damien. The garden won a Bronze Medal



Ken Jordan (1962 –65) wrote: My cousin **Nigel Parker** (1961-65) and myself left Rendcomb in February 1965, to emigrate to New Zealand. Nigel died a few years ago, but I am still farming, 1 hour north of Auckland. With 3 children and also grandchildren, we won't be moving far from here. We travel a lot and particularly around the South Pacific Islands and Bali.

Paul Rose (1968-1975) wrote to Jane in June 2017:
Having retired from Plymouth College just before **Simon Wormleighton** (1968-1975) and from a lowlier position, I have been busier than ever. I compete regularly in dog agility events with my collie, Rigsby, and have reached Grade 4 of a possible 7. I am now a member of Dartmoor Border Morris as a mandolin player (check out the website!) and race Kayaks for Tamar Valley Nomads. My wife Celia and I have just celebrated our 25th anniversary. I was very grateful for all the kind things that were said after the death of my late brother, Tony. I have his slightly modified SU650 Suzuki, which I hope to ride to Rendcomb soon.

Peter Binks (1935-41) wrote at Christmas that he is still keeping busy at 94 years old and is a member of the Puffing Billy Narrow Gauge Railway and a life member of garden centre, which helps people with special needs.

Jade Loughran (née Harrison) (2002-07) studied Medicine at Cardiff University, where she met her now husband Dafydd, who is also a Doctor. They now live and work in Cardiff, and she is currently an Anaesthetic Registrar.

In April 2017 a few ORs got together to celebrate **John Morgan** (1988-95) turning 40. Among those present were **Fred Ingram** (1988-95), **Giles Somers** (1988-95), **Pat Boydell** (1988-95), **Armen Topalian** (1988-93), **Stephen Jones** (1988-95), **Craig Marcham** (1989-96), **Charles Yardley** (1988-89), **Alice Yardley** née Depauw (1993-95), **David Simmons** (1963-70) and **Patrick Morgan** (1986-93).



John Morgan, Patrick Morgan, Craig Marcham

Sam Gunner (1996-2003) was on Radio 4 Today Programme. He had installed 6 sensors on the Clifton Suspension Bridge to monitor the effects of cars crossing the bridge as part of his PhD at Bristol University. Subsequently the University had commissioned the vibrations to be turned into music on a harp shaped like the bridge. It was also shown on BBC Points West. **Luke Gunner** (1998-2005) ran in the London Marathon in April for the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund. It was very hot!!

Oliver Medill (1976-83) wrote that after 10 years as a professional actor, he joined a company called Speakers International. During the next 6 years, it was his job to deliver keynote speeches to corporate audiences of 100 - 5000 on a weekly basis around mindset and communication.

In the last 7 years, he has branched out on his own and now runs All About Impact, an organisation helping people with 'mankind's greatest fear' (public speaking and presentations).

His first book, 'The Impact Formula', came into the shops in January 2018.

Andy Branston (1987-92) wrote: I left in 1992 and spent time at agricultural college and worked on the family farm.

At this time I was also playing hockey and competing in triathlon.

In 2001 I wanted to join the RAF and did so joining the RAF regiment.

Within months of finishing training we were patrolling the streets of Kabul in Afghanistan after 9/11.



Very soon after that we were in Kuwait in the build up to Gulf War 2. Just before we went in I broke my ankle and was not able to move with the rest to Basra.

Then a year later we were guarding and patrolling in and around Basra. We were rocketed daily and lived in fear.

While back in the UK I was also a volunteer member of the RAF mountain rescue team. I really enjoyed that. Notable occurrence was the helping in the rescue of a fellow member of my team after he fell 100 ft.

Then back out to Iraq then on to Afghanistan where we were involved with the clearing up of the Nimrod that crashed.

Afghanistan again and this time we were helping to train Afghan forces. On this tour in 2010 and 11 we were involved in the medical emergency evacuation team. We picked up numerous casualties. Some of them are in the Invictus Games this year.

I did a further tour but was suffering with PTSD. I sought help and now teach trauma incident management and teach the RAF military skills. I have also just gained promotion to Sgt. I have 5 years left now and have been studying acupuncture, soft tissue therapy and spinal manipulation which I enjoy.

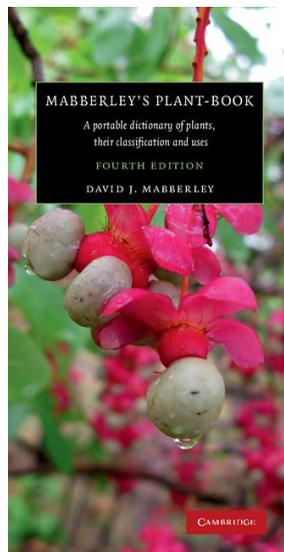
Rendcomb really gave me a head start in the military in my opinion.

Cambridge University Press printed the fourth edition of Professor **David Mabberley's** (1959-66) *Plant-Book* in June 2017 in the UK and Europe

Available through their website:

www.cambridge.org/9781107115026 where it is described as: A Portable Dictionary of Plants, their Classification and Uses.

It won the following endorsement from Peter H. Raven, President Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A:
"David Mabberley has rendered a singular service to the field of botany through successive editions of his comprehensive and highly accurate *Plant-book*. The appearance of a thoroughly-revised 4th edition is a welcome event; in the rapidly-changing field of plant names, it completely supersedes all earlier editions and would be a worthy addition to both personal and institutional libraries to serve as a ready reference to the whole range of generic and higher-order names of vascular



plants, complete with information on economically and ecologically important species and cultivars. This new edition is fully updated, with some 1,400 new entries that reflect the current literature, which in turn has been so deeply improved by molecular analysis throughout the plant kingdom. The access to the primary literature that this masterful work makes possible is of fundamental importance for botanical research of any kind. In this, Mabberley has produced an essential reference for botanists, gardeners and naturalists, professional or amateur, that is a pleasure to browse and enjoy as a fine aid to discovery."

Chris King (Staff: 1983-94) is Chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference. He is Head of Leicester Grammar School.

Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan) (1974-76). In August 2017 Tessa joined the crew of the Great Britain to take part in the Clipper Road the World Race, a 40,000 mile, 11 month long challenge. She had chosen to do all the legs. The first leg being the Atlantic Trade Winds leaving Liverpool's Albert Dock and sailing 6,000 miles crossing the Atlantic and the Equator to arrive at Punta del Este in Uruguay.

From there Leg 2 took them to Cape Town, south Africa across the Southern Atlantic. For Leg 3 they crossed the Southern Ocean for the All Atlantic legs to Freemantle, Leg 4 to Sydney, Leg 5 on to Hobart, Leg 6 to the WhitSundays. Leg 7 crossed the Asia Pacific to Sanya China and the Leg 8 to Quingdao to embark at the end of March on Leg 9, The Mighty Pacific Leg. As the newsletter goes to press they should be arriving at Seattle with the USA coast-to-coast legs and the Atlantic Homecomings to complete before the end of June

Reading Tessa's on board diaries it is clear that this momentous expedition has huge rewards and great challenges. We can not imagine what it must have been like for all on board with the loss of crew member, Simon Spiers during the Southern Ocean Leg in November, but can only admire the courage and resilience of all those taking part and continuing the Challenge. We wish them a triumphant return to Liverpool.

For more information about the race, go to www.clipperroundtheworld.com

Dom Morris (1994-99) went out to Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands in September 2017 as reported in the Wilts & Glos. Standard to advise on the British military response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Irma.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Noble Denison Wilson (1899 to 1953), Staff at Rendcomb College 1934 to 44.



Thanks to the kindness of the “Old Rendcombian Society”, the school and especially of Mrs Gunner and Mrs Boydell, I have been permitted to add to George Davis’ tribute to the late R.N.D. Wilson, who taught at Rendcomb College between 1934 and 1944.

Robert Noble Denison Wilson was born in Coleraine in the north of a still undivided Ireland in 1899. The son of an eloquent and academically brilliant Presbyterian minister,

he attended Coleraine Academical Institution, where he won the Headmaster’s prize for poetry. His upbringing was liberal – an interest in art, literature and travel was encouraged; indeed, in 1914, the family was fortunate to escape from Paris with the loss of only their heavy luggage as the German army advanced.

Called up in the First World War, he was assigned to the artillery unit, which guarded the Straits into the Irish Sea with the official instruction “not to be sent to the front without the permission of the War Office”, because he had been selected for officer training, to be used, once experienced, to replace the very many young officers who had already died. Remaining in Ireland, he rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant before the War ended.

The first great trauma of his life occurred at that time, when his father, a volunteer padre in France, died when the staff car in which he had accepted a lift lost a wheel and plunged down a bank. (The chauffeur was also killed.) As a war casualty, his father was buried in Le Havre in northern France.

At the end of the War R.N.D. Wilson took up his place at Trinity College, Dublin. He was outstanding there, a Foundation scholar and gold medallist.

At this time, he became a personal friend of many prominent figures from the Dublin Literary Movement, including W.B. Yeats, A.E., Arland Ussher and Lennox Robinson of the Abbey Theatre.

On his graduation with First Class Honours in History and Political Science he was appointed by Robinson to be one of the new librarians to work with the Carnegie Trust in setting up a network of public libraries throughout the nascent state of the Irish Republic. Sligo, his new home, was to be the hub of branches in Western Ireland and it was a very responsible job for a man still in his early twenties. There he continued his friendship with Yeats on the latter's holiday in his old home.

Before taking up his job R.N.D. Wilson married an English physiotherapist, who had been living in Dublin. Tragically Clare Wilson developed tuberculosis and the couple, who had lived there from 1923, left Sligo in 1930 so that she might be near her parents in London. It was then that he decided to re-train there for the teaching profession. While he was a student at the University of London, Clare died in his presence a physically agonising death at their home in London.

It was after this that he came to Rendcomb, a happy environment, which sadly, once the Second World War broke out, became accustomed to repeated losses of its alumni in the Forces. Keeping the Roll of Honour, (See: RofH at www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/roll-of-honour/) along with daily contact with both seniors waiting for their call-up and younger boys whose parents were at risk, either in the Forces or from bombing, was too vivid a reminder of his own bereavements and he broke down completely, having to leave Rendcomb.

Those who knew him at that time would have been relieved to know that he recovered sufficiently to perform his duties in his new post at Wolverhampton Grammar School (which being a day school involved fewer pastoral duties) in such a fashion that on leaving he was greatly missed and highly praised by that school.

His time there ended abruptly in 1951. Familial heart and vascular disease (which might have been the reason why he did not participate in games at Rendcomb) began to affect him and he was taken seriously ill; then, though he attempted to return, after one term he required permanent hospital treatment. Too ill to travel alone he had to be escorted by a colleague to his

home town, Coleraine, where until January 1953 he lived in a local hospital, cheering his fellow patients with his light verses about the medical staff and facing death without fear. He had long before converted to Roman Catholicism (his wife's faith) and remained comforted by his religion.

Apart from poetry which appeared in various newspapers when he was a teenager (later published as "The Hermit and Other Poems") he wrote "The Holy Wells of Orris and other poems" in 1927 and "Equinox" (dedicated to his late wife) in 1937. He also wrote "letters to the editor" on subjects which included the division of Ireland, and latterly reviews for literary magazines. In London he had produced educational works for children for the popular "Shown to the Children" series and wrote the best-selling "Guide to the National and Tate Galleries" of 1930, which went through many reprints and is widely available on the second-hand market today.

His life at Rendcomb College is best illustrated in the words of his former pupils and for this period I cannot better George Davis'* masterly summary. This sketch is designed merely to fill the gaps in his life before and after Rendcomb and explain his departure which obviously puzzled pupils there at the time.

Virginia Macnaughton

Links for reference in Wikipedia

The Old Rendcombian Society website is at: www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/

The obituary to Robin RND Wilson appears in the Rendcomb College Chronicle July 1953 on pages 5, 6 and 7

The link is: www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Rendcomb-College-Chronicle-July-1953final.pdf

* The link to the obituary by George Davis appears on pages 5 and 6 in the OR Society Newsletter 2002 is: www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2002.pdf

Tony Hill (1955-1960) wrote to Jane in June 2017:

I was sorry to read of the death of **John Goodborn** (1954-62) in the latest newsletter. I have very fond memories of a Dave Brubeck style jazz trio formed with **Hugh Gough** (1955-1962) on piano and myself on drums. I

thought you may be interested in these photos, being the only ones I have with John on them.



After leaving Rendcomb, I returned on several occasions to play with John and Hugh. These photos were after a gig we played in Clock Hall c1961. The other small photos are odd ones I found at the same time as looking for ones with John. I was playing guitar then with a “Trad” line up. We also



had a skittle group.

I believe I was responsible for introducing Rock ‘n’ Roll to Rendcomb, when I brought in my LP of Bill Haley’s Rock Around the Clock in 1955. I remember John Tooze was not amused!

On leaving Rendcomb, I joined the family business – see the Hills Group website – started by my grandfather in 1900 and still going strong. I am still a Director, though part time – and I still play guitar and drums!



RENDCOMBIANA

RENDCOMB COLLEGE

A photographic record
of new developments
between 1961 and 1963



RENDCOMB PARK IN WHICH THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED IN 1928.
THE NEW WING CAN BE SEEN IN THE EXTREME RIGHT-HAND CORNER



A Study bedroom in the new wing. There are 17 of these single rooms which are given to senior boys studying for 'A' level or for university entrance.



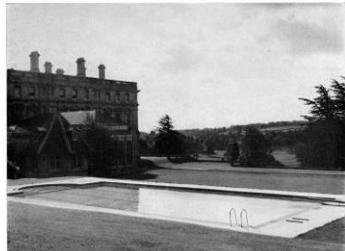
A Study in the new wing. These are normally shared by three boys.



A small VIIIth form group in the French Room in the new wing.



A Lower school form in the new Chemistry Laboratory.



The Swimming Pool presented by Major David Wilks and the Dufferton Trust.



The new hard tennis courts with the Old Rectory and the Church and the College tower in the background.

© 1963 A. B. B. B.

Geoff Bye (1939-48) wrote to Jane in February:

The on-line copies of old Rendcomb magazines continue to fascinate. As a refresher for old memories it is more than welcome. I recently spent more retirement-hours browsing.

The magazine published in June 1944 contained the following;

“The magazine does constitute a permanent record—the only readily available one—of the School’s activities, and the future chronicler will be indebted to its files whenever any information about the history of the College may be required. We write for posterity, and we think it well to remind present readers of this fact”.

This is very true and for the current easy access we again thank OR Nigel Powell. It is to be assumed that everything written in the magazines is totally factual. At least it was written more or less contemporaneously with actual events, whereas 70-plus year-old memories such as mine cannot be treated too reliably. Many bells are rung in reading these records.

First names are scrupulously avoided. Was this a thing of the period, a social trait, a convenience? For 8 years I was “Bye”, except to friends of course. Only years later, in correspondence, did the head call me Geoff. References to WWII which was in full swing during my first 5 years, but was not emphasized much in the magazine. True, when ORs died or were given war-time honors they were mentioned. There was a party to celebrate VE day in 1945. No mention of the drama that was all around - the London blitz, Dunkirk, German take-over of Europe, USA entering the war, (DDay was noted - Summer term 44), and so on. it was almost as if the war passed Rendcomb by. An air-raid shelter, known at the time as “The Trenches” was hand dug in the park. It was never used for its original purpose. Food was clearly a war-time issue. In the report on MichaelmasTerm 1940 reference is made to poultry men (boys!) providing eggs and chicken. Potato farming started. In the Summer Term of 1942 an astonishing 9 tons of potatoes were harvested. This presumably resulted from the planting of 15 cwt the previous year. All done by hand of course. Assuming there were about 120 live-ins to feed this crop amounted to over 165 lbs per person.

Blackberrying at the start of Michaelmas Term became a tradition, and resulted in jam manufacture. No mention is made as to the sugar supply for this. Starting in 1941 each of us had his personal jam jar. I see that for at least one term I was jam-boy, I believe with responsibility to dole out jam. And I lived to tell the story. The orchard gave a goodly crop of edible apples. Which reminds me that I and a friend collected windfalls for the

nefarious purpose of converting them to cider. My friend was the technician for the project and he set up, in a quiet corner of the lab, suitable equipment. The fermented apple juice was subsequently distilled. At great risk to life we sampled the product one day at mid-morning break. One sip was enough. End of project.

We were subject to Ministry of Information propaganda films on a couple of occasions, but they left little impact on me. Such fascinating subjects as working in a munitions factory.

Two students were taken by the authorities in the Winter Term of 1940. I believe both, Winter and Fischer, were deemed to be of German origin and therefore subject to internment.

After the fall of Dunkirk in 1940 Churchill ordered the round-up of all known German nationals for internment. Some were sent to UK camps.



In 1940. Standing: **Geoff Bye, Willie Walters, Ted Jones.**

On chairs: (thought to be) **B. T. Plenderleith** and **R. T. Lindsay.**

On ground **Douglas Payne.**

Winter was sent to Canada and Fischer to Australia. They were guilty of being brought to the UK by their families. As food, clothing was also rationed. In 1941 it is reported that boiler suits were to replace the standard Rendcomb dress. Neither I or my class-mate Doug Payne, as he writes in his 1940-1948 Memoirs, had any recollection of this. We would have been starting Form 3 at this time. I suspect a short-term experiment?

My obvious preference for activity on “Top” shows through. Most references to Bye relate to sporting activity. I am happy to read that in football I dribbled well

and scored many goals, that my hockey conversion from forward to right back was a big success, and in cricket - well I was astonished to see that in the summer of 1948 in three matches I took a total of 13 wickets for a miserly 29 runs. An average of 2.23 runs/wicket. Did I make Wisden? Left-hand leg-breaks thanks to the tuition and patience of John James. Not mentioned - I batted as a right-hander but bowled as a leftie. Confusing for the opponents.

Incidentally the name Michaelmas Term was used throughout my Rendcomb years. It now seems charmingly quaint. The term became the Autumn Term in 1948, Christmas Term in 1950 and 1951, and back to Autumn in 1952. Then back to Christmas Term in 1953. There is a back-story here. A struggle between religion and secularism? Also an editorial struggle as to whether terms should be defined by a start or an end date. St. Michaels feast is on September 29th, a start date for the term, whereas the other two terms were defined by when they ended, namely Easter and Summer. If consistency was needed, the editors might have settled on Christmas but Autumn got in the way. There was also a competition for title between "Magazine" and "Chronicle" which doesn't seem to have been settled until 1969.

The beat goes on as they say. Thirty magazines were published during my Rendcomb years. They continue to amuse, inform and remind me of some of the most important years of my life.



1995: **Geoff Bye, Willie Walters, Douglas Payne, Ted Jones.**

COLLEGE NEWS

Pupils' Sporting achievements

Jack Liang and Najya Mohamed have achieved their British Horse Society Progressive Riding and Stable Management awards. In Judo, the College has been represented in local events by Chloe Witt, Rufus Handley and Cameron and Ewan Burr, with both Ewan and Cameron winning silver medals in the HMC tournament at High Wycombe. Meanwhile, Jamie Southall has captained Gloucestershire U17 Rugby against Oxfordshire at Hartpury College with distinction. In skiing, Gen Horie recently competed in the all Japan Junior High competition where he finished 3rd out of more than 50 competitors; he has subsequently earned himself a contract with Fischer Sports, one of the largest ski equipment manufacturers in the world. Finally, Lucinda Norris has won four swimming medals, two golds in the county freestyle and medley relays and two further bronze medals in the individual 50m and 100m freestyle events. She is currently ranked in the top 30 swimmers in the country for her age group (u12).

Team Sports

In boys' hockey, the College has fielded a good selection of hockey teams from U12 to 1st XI, giving plenty of pupils a chance to represent Rendcomb. The U13s and U14s have been particularly busy, playing in local tournaments and competing well. The senior teams have not disgraced themselves, with the 2nd XI playing well and the 1st XI recently beating Pates 12-1. Meanwhile, in girls' lacrosse, Rendcomb has put out a similar variety of teams. The U13s have played well, as have the U14s and U15s (who recently beat Marlborough). The 1st and 2nd teams have also been busy, enjoying their sport and acquitting themselves well against good opposition.

Saul

As I am the only member of the present college community to be here in the 1950's, I have been asked to reflect upon the departure of the longest-term resident from the Rendcomb community.

In the middle of the 19th century, Sir Francis Goldsmid, who had recently bought the Rendcomb estate, decided to pull down the mansion house, which was then a hundred years old – and build a new home – the building which is now the main building of the College.

Sir Francis was a collector of sculptures and there were ten or twelve lesser statues distributed around the house and in the Wilderness. When the house became a College in 1920 there were statues in the music room (now the far

end of the dining-room) (see photo in History I) but they gradually disappeared although one still remained in the new Art Block in 1967 until finally there was only the statue of Saul.

Every Old Rendcombian will remember Saul! He dominated the entrance to the college for over ninety years. However, in 2015, he was replaced by a reception desk and was seated in a far less imposing position, sideways on, just inside the main door. 'Saul's Hall' was renamed the 'Reception Area'! As the school has changed over the years, Saul has remained a symbol of continuity for many of us – and most Old Rendcombians will miss him when they visit the College in future. We have probably forgotten what a nuisance he was when we were playing snooker, restricting the distance we could draw back our cues on one side of the table!

In anticipation of his departure, I spoke about the biblical story of Saul in a school chapel service. In the book of Samuel we read that King Saul suffered from what we would describe as a mental illness: he experienced times of deep depression – and it is one of these, which is captured in the statue –

As William Story, the American who sculpted Saul, said:

I have represented him at the moment, recorded in the Book of Samuel chapter 16, when the evil spirit is upon Saul – and David is called in to play music for him. The action, said the sculptor, is all inside him – the struggle of a half-demented soul: one hand is clutching his beard and one is fumbling at his dagger.

Perhaps those who felt that this statue was an inappropriate presence for the entrance to a school had a point, but his departure has been mourned by many!

We understand that the statue is currently in transit and that, in time, its new location will become public – and that it will be accessible for public viewing. Whether or not the missing toe will be replaced, I do not know! Returning to Rendcomb as chaplain, 48 years after leaving, has been a fascinating and enriching experience. People ask me what has changed and the answer is 'most things'. The sixties, of course, saw the beginning of the movement away from the school of the Lee-Browne era, as student numbers rose above the mystical 91 and the lumber jackets and shorts were replaced by jumpers and trousers.

Today in the senior school we have just under 300 pupils, nearly half of them girls. Two-thirds of them are day pupils and, the uniform of blazers (suits in the 6th form) and ties is a good deal more formal. I have my own

views about this – one reason for my getting ordained was to avoid having to wear a tie!

There is also a junior school and a nursery so that the school pupil population ranges from 3 year-olds to 18. The Junior School is based in the area, which was developed into study bedrooms in the late 1960's, together with the area around the 'Manual', the P.W. courtyard and the school shop. It saddens me to see the asphalt covered in cars rather than pupils playing hockey, but that is a reflection of an expanded school and modern life, fifty years on. Cars all over the site is the physical change that I most regret.

The area around the Old Rectory was developed during the 1980s to provide five boarding houses and, in the last two years, this has been enhanced by a beautiful state-of-the-art theatre. There are no dormitories in the main college building – the top floor is mainly offices.

But much remains, physically, that OR's of my generation will remember. Although it is not used, the old bell is still in place on the back stairs – a source of temptation to me every time that I pass it! The Stable Block is the location for teaching Sciences, as it always was, but for several other subjects too. And the East wind blows across Top as chilling as it ever was! It's good to have this outlet for a wave of nostalgia, as I do have to rein in my inclination to launch into 'When I was here as a boy' statements. Fortunately, one of the people who presses me for information is the Head, Rob Jones, who embraces much of the Noel Wills / JH Simpson vision and is keen to reassert some of their priorities such as student responsibility, outdoor education, craft and creative arts opportunities. Sadly, Rob likes ties!

I have been asked a few times why it is that so few Old Rendcombian from the fifties and sixties visit the College. I suspect it may be that many feel, as I did, that it is no longer the College that we knew. Fifty years on, this is inevitable but I hope that the above may stir some memories and encourage you to consider a visit.

An obvious opportunity is, of course, the Old Rendcombian summer reunion, but, if you find yourself in the area at some other time, do drop me an e-mail in advance and I would be pleased to show you around. And then there is the College centenary in 2020! It has been suggested that we might arrange an event for those who were educated here in the first half of its existence that is more than fifty years ago. If you are interested, do let me know.

Bob Edy (1959-67, Staff: 2015-) College chaplain.

HOCKEY – 17th October 2017



Back row (L-R): **Alice Tredwell** (née Barefoot) (1997 – 2004), **Becca Edwards** (née Demczak) (1999-2002), **Maria Highlands** (2010-12) (Goalie), **Jess Weston** (1998-2005), **Cerys Davies** (2008-14)
Front row (L-R): **Ellie Jones** (2010-17), **Alana Beth Carpenter** (2002-11), **Holly Phelps** (2001-12), **Charlie Clements** (2005-11).

On Sunday, 22 October 2017 a team of ORs Ladies entered the Dean Close Hockey Sixes for the second year running. In the group matches we played Malvern College, Dean Close, Cheltenham College and St Edwards Oxford, with convincing wins over Dean Close and Cheltenham College to put us in the semi-finals. Sadly we lost in the semis and 3rd/4th place play-offs to finish a respectable 4th overall out of 10 teams. We actually beat St Edward's Oxford in the group stages who went on to win the tournament.



The tournament was great fun with some really creative and clever hockey played by all. It was great to have ORs from different eras (the oldest leaving back in 2002) with everyone enjoying playing under the Rendcomb name again. We have already signed up for next year and would welcome any new players and supporters.



Special thanks to Jane Gunner for coming to support and being our squad manager, tactician and first aider! Also thanks to Megan Hardie (the current Rendcomb 1st XI goal keeper) for lending us her **Jess Weston (1998-2005)**



HOCKEY – Saturday 24th March 2018



ORs above: **Toby Brealy** (1977-84), **James Sinfield** (2009-16), **Alex Pugh** (2007-2015), **Sam Tushingam** (2009-2015) **Charlie Lamble** (2011-13), **Will Scott** (2005-13), **Paddy Gilling** (2007-12), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Alex Tatara-Mills** (2009-14), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10).

The 2nd XI game was a fast-moving match, which saw the ORs win 3-1. Special mention must be made of **Toby Brealy** who turned out for the ORs some 34 years after leaving the College. The spectators' player of the match was **Orlagh Brennan** (2010-15) whose skill at stick work was formidable.



The 1st XI game was tightly fought resulting in a draw 1-1. For more pictures of both games go to the OR Facebook page.



ORs who played on the day: **Will Scott** (2005-13), **Charlie Lamble** (2011-13), **Paddy Gilling** (2007-12), **Alex Pugh** (2007-2015), **Alex Tatara-Mills** (2009-14) **James Sinfield** (2009-16), **Orlagh Brennan** (2010-15), **Eleanor Brealy** (2010-17), **Ellie Jones** (2010-17), **Sam Tushingam** (2009-2015), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09).



The ferocious bully-off.

LACROSSE – 24th March 2018

Sadly only two ORs turned up ready to play lacrosse but a good match was enjoyed by players and spectators alike.



Eleanor
Brealy
(2010-17)



Orlagh Brennan
(2010-2015)

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2017

Clement Ash	Deferred entry
Eleanor Brealy	University of Swansea – Geography
Johnathan Chau	Coventry University – International Hospitality and Tourism Management
Tashmit Ganai	University of Chester – Journalism and International Relations
Thomas Godwin	University of Exeter – Politics and International Relations
Elizabeth Handley	Teeside University – Chemical Engineering
Sergii Kosianenko	University of Essex – Law with Business (with Foundation Year)
Guoxin Lai [Leo]	University of Bath – Accounting and Finance
Anna Migone	University of Oxford – French
Harry Newman	Swansea University – Applied Medical Sciences
Ruixiang Ouyang [Ray]	City, University of London – Finance
Xue Qin [Kay]	University of Birmingham – Accounting and Finance
Yushu Shen [Doris]	University of Surrey – Film and Video Production Technology
Niamh Smith	Royal Holloway, University of London – Drama and Theatre Studies
Joshua Stanton	Birkbeck, University of London – Language and/or with Global Politics (French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese)
Jinhui Su [Borgia]	University of Birmingham – International Relations with year abroad
John Walker	University of Portsmouth – Mechanical Engineering
Jared Wason	University of Southampton – Chemistry
Yibo Wen [Bob]	University of Durham – Accounting and Finance
Thomas Whichelo	Cardiff Metropolitan University – Business and Management Studies with International Business Management (3 years or
William Witts	University of Nottingham – Chemistry
Tong Zheng [Robert]	University of Durham – Physics (3 years)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

e-mail.....

Years at Rendcomb

Junior School.....

Senior School.....

Telephone Number.....

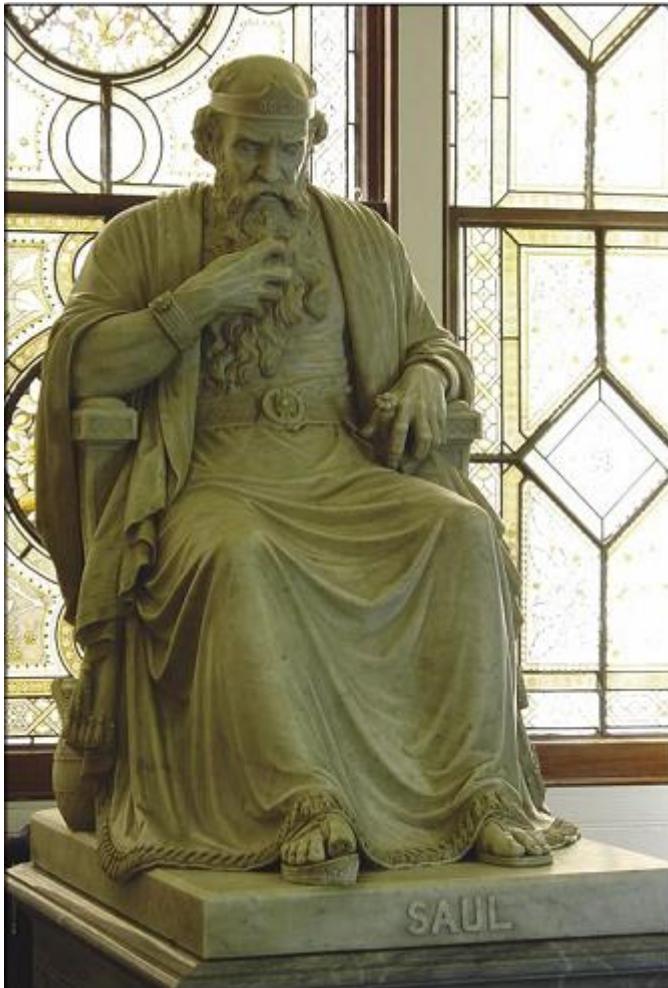
Please send to:

Jane Gunner,

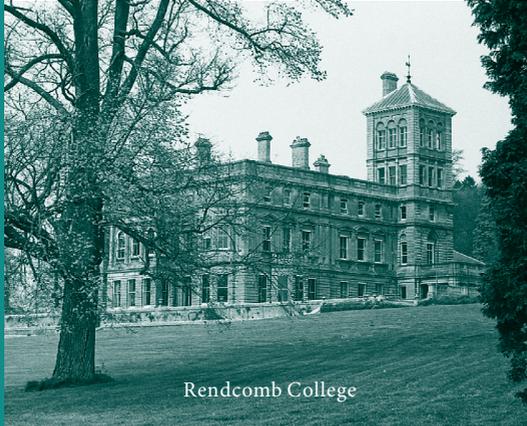
Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 7BA

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 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: www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/contacts-and-links/



Vale!!



Rendcomb College



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY
oldrendcombian.org.uk