

# **Old Rendcombian Society**

## **NEWSLETTER**



**MAY 2011**

**37th ISSUE**

## Contents

Old Rendcombian Newsletter	...	...	2
The Headmaster	...	...	2
Society Officers	...	...	2
Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting			2
Annual General Meeting	...	...	3
Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures			4
Sports Contacts	...	...	4
The Newsletter	...	...	4
Report on Summer Reunion 27th June 2010			5
30 Years On - 27th June 2010	...	...	6
Tennis - 26/27th June 2010	...	...	7
Old Rendcombian Carol Service	...	...	8
30 Years On - 3rd July 2011	...	...	9
35 Years On - 3rd July 2011	...	...	9
40 Years On - 3rd July 2011	...	...	10
The Class of 1960 - 3rd July 2011	...	...	10
Reflections From the Headmaster	...	...	10
Congratulations	...	...	11
Births	...	...	12
Marriages	...	...	12
Obituaries	...	...	12
Memories	...	...	17
Saul's Toe	...	...	17
Acknowledgements	...	...	19
Old Rendcombian News	...	...	20
College News	...	...	23
Gerry and Liese Holden	...	...	23
Cricket - 27th June 2010	...	...	28
Rugby Reunion - Saturday 6th December 2010			28
Hockey - 26th March 2011	...	...	28
Lacrosse - Saturday 26th March 2011	...	...	29
Destination of 6A Leavers 2010	...	...	30
The Friends of Rendcomb College	...	...	31

## The Headmaster

Old Rendcombians will be sorry to learn that Gerry Holden will be leaving Rendcomb after twelve years as Headmaster. He has given great support to the Society and has always gone out of his way to welcome ORs at reunions and at other times. We wish him and Liese well for their move to Dover College. We shall miss them.

Bill White, President

## **Society Officers**

At the annual general meeting on 27th June 2010 the following officers were elected:

President:	Bill White (staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, (Cheltenham), Glos GL54 3JG Tel: (01451) 860943
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-Chairman:	Patrick Boydell (1988-95)
Secretary:	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Glos GL7 7BA Tel: 01285 658627 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer:	Chris Wood (1965-71; staff: 1976-2009) 9 Hammond Drive, Northleach, (Cheltenham), Glos GL54 3JF Tel: 01451 860871 e-mail: chriswood99@btinternet.com
School representative:	Alex Breal (1980-87; staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Fiona Burge (1988-90) Tommy Lait (1996-2003) Jessica Weston (1998-2005) Stephen Jones (1988-95) Dominic Sharman (1993-99)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG Tel: 01296 582741 e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

## Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society

Held on 27th June 2010 in Room El at Rendcomb College

Present: Jane Gunner (1975-77), Neil Lumby (1968-73), Alice Hughes (1998-03), Colin Burden (staff 1963-97), Tim Etherington (1973-80), Des Knox (1970-75), Andy Medhurst (1968-75), Simon Wormleighton (1968-75), David Williams (1966-71), Bill White (staff: 1961-97), Gerard Benson (1944-50), Mike Miles (1943-50), Fred Wilcox (1973-80), Dominic Ind (1973-80), Nick Price (1973-80), Jonathan Allen (1975-80), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Richard Pitt (1973-80).

1. Apologies: Jessica Weston (1998-2005), Chris Wood (1965-71; staff: 1976-2009), Philip Griffiths (1940-43), Philip Quick (1945-50), Alex Breal (1980-87; staff: 1994-) David Semple (1949-56), Gerry Holden (headmaster; 1999-), Pat Boydell (1988-95), Julian Comrie (1946-54).

2. To receive the minutes of the 76th AGM on 28th June 2009. It was proposed by Alice Hughes seconded by Richard Tudor that the minutes as published in the 2010 newsletter be accepted as a correct record. This was passed unanimously.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's report

Fred Wilcox suggested there might be scope for getting sponsorship or advertising. The committee agreed to look into it. It was also hoped that printing costs would be reduced next year by using alternative printers.

David Williams also explained that £600 from the travel bursary had not yet been taken up. This was because six pupils had all applied to visit the sister school in Uganda and had been awarded one hundred pounds each with the expectation of a joint report. So far one had withdrawn and the other five had not taken it up. The committee would be putting a deadline on take up in future.

The £100 not taken up along with a £100 donation in memory of an OR, John Dow, had subsequently been awarded to another pupil who would be going to Uganda for six months. The other £400 had been awarded to a pupil who was going to teach in New Zealand.

David also pointed out that there was money outstanding for socials as those organising them had not yet put in their expenses claim. Generally revenue was down because the college had agreed that the American pupils from the airbase did not have to pay the subscription. The Americans had now left; so, providing pupils replaced them, this would be resolved.

It was suggested that it might be time to make another appeal to ORs who left a long time ago when the subscription was much less. The committee agreed to pursue this.

It was proposed by Michael Miles and seconded by Colin Burden and carried unanimously that the accounts be adopted.

#### 5. Elections of Officers

There were no officers due for re-elections.

#### 6. Nomination for 1 Committee Member

The Hon Secretary reported that there had been no nominations received by the due date, so it would go back to the committee.

#### 7. Travel Bursary

The committee recommended that the annual award should remain at £1000. It was proposed by Alice Hughes and seconded by Gerard Benson to accept the committee's recommendation.

#### 8. Any other business

Colin Burden reported on the Friends of Rendcomb who have funds of approx £70,000. There is currently a Friends of Rendcomb scholar who is head boy and he gave an excellent speech at Founder's Day, which included his thanks to the Friends of Rendcomb. The Friends of Rendcomb have also made an award for next year to a girl about to enter the 5th form.

Colin went on to say that the late Frank Dutton had been in correspondence with the Friends of Rendcomb for many years regarding a legacy he wished to pass on to the Friends for funding a music scholarship, specifically jazz. However, in his will the college itself had been named as the beneficiary. The total legacy would eventually be in the order of £130,000. In light of the previous correspondence, the headmaster had assured the Friends of Rendcomb trustees that the money would be ring-fenced and its use directed by the Friends of Rendcomb trustees. The meeting expressed its gratitude to the late Frank Dutton and his family.

#### 9. Vote of thanks to the College

Neil Lumby expressed the Society's thanks to the college for hosting the reunions and also the committee meetings and for always making the ORs feel welcome.

He also thanked all the committee members for their efforts on the Society's behalf.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

### **78th Annual General Meeting**

You are invited to attend the annual general meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 3rd July 2011 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p.m.

#### AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 77th AGM held on 27th June 2010
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Election of officers:

- President (5 years), Chairman (3 years), Hon. Secretary (3 years)
6. Nominations for committee members  
All proposed and seconded nominations to reach Secretary by 20th June 2011
  7. Travel Bursary
  8. Any other business
  9. Vote of thanks to the College.

### **Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures**

Sunday 3rd July timetable:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 10.30 am | Coffee in Clock Hall   |
| 11.15 am | Cricket match  |
| 12 noon  | Pay Bar  |
| 12.00 pm | AGM in Room E1   |
| 1.00 pm  | Hot lunch including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors. Main course to be collected from Servery for lunch in Reading Room.<br>No charge: any donations to O.R. Society gratefully received |
| 2.30 pm  | Cricket Match resumes on Top   |
| 4.30 pm  | Tea in Pavilion  |

ALL ARE WELCOME, NOT JUST THOSE PLAYING OR HAVING A YEAR GROUP REUNION.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Rugby:   | Saturday 3rd December 2011             |
| Hockey:  | Saturday 24th March 2012 (provisional) |
| Cricket: | Sunday 1st July 2012 (provisional)     |
- All provisional dates and those not listed here will be shown on [www.rendcombian.org.uk](http://www.rendcombian.org.uk) as soon as they are agreed.

### **Sports Contacts**

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

College

Alex Brealy: 01285 832314 (W) or 01285 832363 (H) [BrealyA@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:BrealyA@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk)

Rugby

Tommy Lait: [tommy\\_lait@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tommy_lait@yahoo.co.uk)

Hockey

Dominic Sharman: [sharman\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sharman_uk@yahoo.co.uk)

Girls' Sports

Jess Weston 07969 177437 [jess\\_weston@hotmail.com](mailto:jess_weston@hotmail.com)

### **The Newsletter**

This year it has been as hard as ever to keep the newsletter to manageable size, but we have tried to maintain the flow of information while sometimes having to edit articles in the interests of economy. Highlights of this edition are the tributes to Rendcomb stalwart John Holt (whose writing style so many of us unconsciously reflect) and a cheery farewell to the current headmaster, Gerry Holden, who has always been most supportive of the ORs. We wish him well.

On a lighter note, Gerard Benson solves the mystery of Saul's toe. The photographic history is being painstakingly compiled by Chris Wood and Bill White, and the plans for the 2011 summer reunion move on. The committee would like to reinforce the message that reunions are for all OR members and not just for the year groups who are arranging a specific anniversary meeting. Finally, we thank the many ORs who have provided articles, photographs and information for this edition.

Richard Tudor

### Report on Summer Reunion 27th June 2010

Various events had conspired to make it look as though the OR day was going to be very quiet and low key. Timetable revisions had meant that the OR day was on an exeat instead of the last weekend of term so it made it impossible to get a cricket team from the college to play the ORs. In the event this was trumped by the fact that England were playing Germany in the afternoon so a match would very likely have to have been cancelled. Despite this a few old faithfuls led by **Pat Boydell** played football in the morning and joined other visitors for lunch.



Pat Poole, Judy Hunt and Joy Hardy

Three long serving members of staff were retiring at the end of term and presentations were made to them. **Sister Judy Hunt** who had run the medical centre with Julie Rogers (formerly Pritchard) for the last 16 years was presented with a picture of the college and a bouquet of flowers, as was **Pat Poole**, who had provided dedicated service to the kitchens for 37 years. **Joy Hardy** was presented with flowers and sets of the society's tablemats with pictures of the college on them; her family already had a picture! Joy had worked in and around the college for nearly as long as Pat.

Bill White gave an evocative and interesting insight into the way the workings behind the scenes at the college had changed over the years, from ages of austerity through to the smooth and efficient service now provided by Mark Naylor and Mark Robbins.

The OR day was open to all ORs, but as has become the trend over the last few years the majority of those present were from particular year groups. Both those who had left 30 years ago ably coordinated by **Richard Tudor** and **Nick Miles** and those from 35 years ago organised by **Des Knox** and **Stuart Honeyball** were well represented. Many attended the AGM and there was a lively discussion on the newsletter and its future. After an excellent lunch ORs strolled around the building visiting old haunts and exchanging reminiscences, which resulted in the fascinating account by the only man alive to know the truth about the loss of Saul's toe.

Noticeably there was concern expressed by ORs about what appeared to be the annexation of parts of the lake by the next door neighbours. The day was rounded off with tea and biscuits in the dining-room before heading off to the Bathurst. The OR Society must once again express its grateful thanks to Mark Naylor, director of commercial operations, for making the day go so smoothly.

JRG

**30 Years On - 27th June 2010**



From left to right: Nick Price, Dom Ind, Jonathan Allen, Richard Tudor, Richard Pitt, Nick Miles, Mike Twinning, Frank Peplow, Tim Etherington, Fred (Mark) Wilcox

As part of the 30 year reunion, the class of 1980 turned out in force (kinda) on the evening of 26 June 2010. As the photos show, the evening was very entertaining, with a number of old stories being re-examined,



exaggerated and embellished over a cleansing ale or two. Most of the photos were taken by Jo Hobbs, who came along with Sally Morris (née Horne) and Fred Wilcox. Claire Foster (née Comrie) also arrived, as did Dom Ind, Jonathan Allen, Nick Price, Nick Miles, Frank Peplow, Mike Twinning, Richard Pitt, Richard Tudor, Dan Boon and Tim Etherington and his girlfriend Clara. A number of people stayed the night and Messrs Tudor and Twinning shared a 'dorm' for the first time since 1975. Apologies were received from Ben Hatchwell (now Professor of Evolutionary Ecology at Sheffield University), who was busy ringing guillemots in west Wales, which sounded like a pretty fair excuse! Most of the gang then went to the college on the following day for a good look around and further reminiscences. Several remarked on the beautiful location, which might not have been fully appreciated by us 30 years previously!



## Tennis - 26/27th June 2010

With the kind permission of the college, the tennis courts outside the Old Rectory were the scene of some entertaining events on Saturday 26 June 2010, when a few ambitious ORs tried to turn back the clock and play a couple of sets. The guilty people were Jonathan Allen, Dom Ind, Nick Miles and Richard Tudor. The following morning saw events reprised, but with Frank Peplow, Richard Pitt, Nick Miles and Mike Twinning. In both cases, the tennis was rusty but amusing. The players still seemed to be able to hit the ball tolerably well, although movement around the court was not what it had been!

## 35 Years On - 27th June 2010

Rendcomb - Class of 1975 Reunion Report - **Des Knox** writes:

A great sunny day for a reunion. There was no cricket this year (exeat/world cup) so we didn't go up top, but the focus of OR day is more the lunch now.

Nine of our class made it altogether, (**Nige Bradbury**, **Jon Dixon**, **Stu Honeyball**, **Des Knox**, **Neil Lumby**, **Andy Medhurst**, **Ian Taylor**, **Simon Wormleighton** and **Rob**, Kari and Claudia **Weston**). We arrived sporadically over the morning, and spent the time chatting and looking over the school, and some of us went to the AGM. Ian turned up for a pre-lunch drink but was unable to stay. **Bill White** and **Colin Burden** were there and were able to furnish us with stories about the place and various past pupils.

The main building looks very well now: the assembly hall and the dining room have been restored to their original condition and according to Bill are rented out for receptions etc. In our day they were pretty dingy. Lunch was not bad, lasagne followed by some quite decent desserts. Afterwards we wandered over to Park House, which is largely unchanged except that the bar had gone and there is a new door into the common room from outside. There were signs up on the doors to the wings saying 'No boys beyond this point' and vice versa. We were told that there were plans to knock through the wall to the garage at the back to increase the living area. Apparently the school can't get planning permission to change the exterior because it may spoil other people's view (even though it's an eyesore as it is.) They really want to build new blocks to provide the sort of facilities that are expected these days but again, no planning permission.

Each time we go back there's something new: this time there was a children's playground above the swimming pool, and a mysterious hole in the ground full of water up the 'wildie'. We stumbled upon the old amphitheatre up there, which is something I had forgotten.

No-one seemed to know a great deal about the current character of the school and the inmates were away so we couldn't ask them. But Simon was able to give some insights into modern public school life from Plymouth College. He was saying that it's not like it used to be, e.g. they don't have school rules, but school policies instead. I asked if they were allowed to write on the bog walls, but he said it wouldn't even occur to them (we'll have to suggest it). It may well be the same at Rendcomb.

After tea we headed to the Bathurst garden where we were joined by **Dave (J.D.) Williams**, and talked of old times and new times, e.g. the relative merits of French lessons with Bill White and David Sells, Saul's broken toe, the habit of putting marmalade on beef burgers and whether we should set up a Facebook group for our class.

None of us had heard from **Andy Medhurst** for decades, so it was good to see him again. He looks slightly taller and is very well (he's a grandfather now). He still plays hockey and likes Status Quo. After several years in a bank he is now a funeral director (Kempster & Sons), and lives in Sussex.

**Nige Bradbury** also hadn't been back for ages. He lives in Wantage now, and works as a technician designing surface-mounted microelectronics for medical equipment. He has a 13 year old daughter from a previous relationship.

**Jon Dixon** is a website designer, amateur actor and musician in the band *Shining Examples*.

**Ian Taylor** says that he gave up the recording business about ten years ago after trouble with his hearing, so he retrained and now works as a construction site manager.

**Neil Lumby** works for his graphic design company Lumby Futrille.

**Rob** (or Robert Barnard-Weston as he is now known) is keenly involved in sustainability and eco-issues.

**Stu Honeyball** is now married to Karine and still lives in Yate.

**Des Knox** is still slobbering around Tetbury.

**Simon Wormleighton** is headmaster of Plymouth College.

Absent friends, we missed you and hope to see you next time. (In five years?)

Apologies from Mike James, Pete Lace, Clive, Pete Millard, Steve Pendell, Paul, Phil Smith, Bella, Cat, Charlotte, Henrietta and Jacki.

News of some of the rest of the class:

**Pete Lace** is married with three children and now works as a treasurer.



**Pete Millard** has recently been in touch. He is currently in New Zealand, is married with two children and is a plant ecophysiologicalist (no idea: you'll have to look it up).

**Charlotte Kirby** (née **Brain**) says that she is currently well and living in Scotland. She and her husband sold their company a few years ago and are now running a small business from home (3D design of buses & trains) but are hoping to wind that down soon.

**Mike Denley** has set up a carpet cleaning business and is based in Stroud.

**Bella Burke** (née **Bartlett**) says she is still working as a GP in Sherborne and enjoying life apart from all the continual changes and government edicts. Her daughter is finishing her third year at Bristol reading French, and her son has just left school. She sees **Suzanne Marston** from time to time and keeps in touch with **Annabel Molyneux** (née **Goodenough**) and **Henrietta Budd** (née **Hooper**).

**Steve Pendell** is working for Publix Supermarkets as a bakery manager in Florida. He got engaged to Denise last Christmas and has a large step-family.

**Lilli Dunn** (née **Schnitzer** and Ross) and her husband moved from London some years ago and now have a son. She is doing some French conversation teaching for adults but used to be a PR consultant in London. (This news is four years old and may be out of date.)

**Cat Ledger** still runs a literary agency, though she spends a lot of her time in France now. She has a young daughter.

**Stephen Bolt** has left ADAS and is currently working for another environmental consultancy (WYG) as regional managing director.

**Mark Jowsey** is listed on Friends Reunited – he says he is running a small computer software division of an automotive services company, though his entry was fairly old. He has a grown-up daughter.

**Phil Lamphée** now lives in Cornwall and edits the St. Austell Voice, a paid-for weekly newspaper.

**Mark Wapshott** is a financial services consultant and contractor at St. Edmundsbury Financial Services Ltd in Bury St. Edmunds.

**Paul Rose** was unable to come to the reunion as he was leading a Duke of Edinburgh group to France for Plymouth College.

**Henrietta Budd** (née **Hooper**) is working as a sculptor and doing the first part of a BA in English literature after giving up a career including a medical journalist/scriptwriter/presenter/editor and writing medical programmes for the computer. She has a husband who does computing and a son of fifteen.

**Clive Mathias** is working as a solicitor for Lewis Lewis & Co and is now in charge of the wills and probate department.

**Jacki Holmes** (née **Wilson**) is still in Newcastle, and has sold her share in Wood-Holmes, the strategic market research company. She now works part time at Acritas.

**Richard Evans** is doing IT for a travel company in central London.

### **Old Rendcombian Carol Service**

Musical nostalgia rules supreme

Going into overdrive at 2.30 on Sunday afternoon, 5th December, a group of Old Rendcombian musicians got together and rehearsed an extensive programme of music under past Director of Music, **David White**.

The upshot was the re-enacting of the Advent Carol Service, complete with candlelit processions and all the right music in the right place.

This was the brain child of OR **Claire Germaine** (1990-93), egged on by **John Talbot** (1986-93) some many months before but with support from the society, the new chaplain Godfrey Simpson, and the goodwill of present incumbents it all happened in a way well beyond expectations. Many of the OR's involved had not been back to the old place since they had left.

The church was packed to the gunwales and even a tear was reported as being shed. Again? Well, we wait and see.

David White, Director of Music (1989-2004)

**OR Advent Service  
Sunday 25th December 2010**



From left to right: Stephen Lea (staff: 1988-97), David White (staff: 1989-2004), Ian Forster (1994-99), Thom Gilbert (1992-99), Tim Shaw (1990-97), Gemma Thomasin-Foster (née Leathart, 1993-99), Phil Webb (1992-99), Julia Morris (staff: 1985-2005), Tanya Wells (2001-04), Charlotte Cumberpatch (1998-2005), Caroline Wells (2001-05), Saul!, Nicki Wells (2001-04), Laura Holmes (2000-05), Ralph Barnes (1991-98), Amanda Graham (2000-07), Gill Day (staff), Ed Slark (pupil), Alice Hughes (1998-2003), Tim Morris, Sue Webb (past parent), Becky Doyle (1992-97)

Not in the photo Claire Germaine (1990-93) and Laurie Wilcox (2001-08). The choir sang *Matin Responsory* by Palestrina, the *Advent Wreath Prayer* by Archer, *Adam Lay Ybounden* by Ord, *A Tender Shoot* by Goldschmidt, *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*, (Basque traditional), *Magnificat* in G major by Stanford, *O Thou The Central Orb* by Wood and *Vesper Responsory* by Palestrina. Readings were given by Alex Breal (1980-87; staff 1994-), Charlotte Clements (pupil), Bill White (staff 1961-97), Jane Gunner (1975-77), and Gerry Holden (Headmaster 1999-2011).

**30 Years On – 3rd July 2011 - Calling the leavers of 1981!!**

Dear OR's of a certain age.

If you are depressed by the current violence and uncertainty in the world around us, I have some old news. In 1981, the year you left school, there was an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Ronald Reagan, an attempt to kill John Paul II and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was not quite so fortunate. Question 1: If the two presidents were swapped, would the world be a safer place? Discuss... The year you left school, IBM made the first PC and Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer. Question 2: On Friday 29 April, were you checking your emails or watching the Royal Wedding? The year you left school was three decades ago and maybe some things never change. Question 3: Do you want to see how much we've changed? There will be a gathering at a local pub (probably beginning with B) on Saturday 2nd July for dinner and at Rendcomb, a bar, lunch, and a look round the school on Sunday 3rd July (OR day). Please email Tom at [info@milton-farm.co.uk](mailto:info@milton-farm.co.uk) or Mary at [hmalex@doctors.org](mailto:hmalex@doctors.org) specifying Saturday, Sunday or both and if there is enough interest we will get back to you with the finer details. Look forward to hearing from you.

Tom Paton

**35 Years On – 3rd JULY 2011 Calling the leavers of 1976!!**

Robbie Barrett and Charley Hussey are arranging a reunion of 1976 leavers on OR day, July 3rd 2011. All those interested please contact Robbie on 07525 251773 or email [robertpackhorse@aol.com](mailto:robertpackhorse@aol.com).

### 40 Years On – 3rd July 2011 Calling the leavers of 1971!!

Chris Wood is arranging a reunion of 1971 leavers this summer. There will be a dinner on the evening of Saturday 2nd July near the school allowing everyone to attend the summer reunion at the school the next day. If you have not been contacted and you are interested in this reunion please contact Chris Wood. (01451 860871 or chriswood99@btinternet.com).

### The Class of 1960 – 3rd July 2011

The class of '60' are holding a reunion at the College on 3rd July 2011. Please contact Jon Hiscox (jon.hiscox@onetel.net) for the latest details.

### The Class of '60



Back row:

Goodsell, Chanin, Hole, Little, Pullen, Peterson, Thompson, Stevens, Harrop, Hillier, Hemming, Green

Front row:

Hiscox, Griffiths, Dakin, Laws, Dawson, Grant, Fonseca, Milam, Smith, Burman, Godden

Absent: William A, Thompson, P Vyvyan, Rayner

### Reflections from The Headmaster

I was recently asked by a colleague what I would miss most about Rendcomb; the answer requires little time for reflection: our pupils. It has been a genuine privilege to have enjoyed stewardship of this wonderful place over the last twelve years, which has seen some developments since my arrival in 1999. Whereas the opening of the Junior School in 2000 or the introduction of the sixth-form flat may be seen as considerable landmarks in the Holden era (that is, of course, for others to comment on, not me) from my own perspective, the really enjoyable moments in my headship have always been pupil-centred. Highlights include fond memories of our unbeaten 1st XV rugby side captained by **Freddie Lait** (1994-2001), or my son **Alex**'s (2000-07) performance in the title role of Diana Dodd's outstanding production of Jesus Christ Superstar, or as recently as last Sunday, when Holly Phelps, daughter of Old Rendcombians **Jenny** (née **Watson**, 1978-80) and **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), scored the "golden goal" which enabled our 1st XII Lacrosse team to win The National Small Schools' Championship at Oakham School... I could go on but I won't otherwise I shall have nothing left to say on Founder's Day.

I have always, yes always, enjoyed Old Rendcombian sports fixtures and reunions and I was delighted to have played a small part in supporting **Claire Germaine**'s (1990-93) initiative in launching last term's OR Advent service. There are some heads I know who dread their old boys and girls visiting their alma mater but I have

always found your gatherings to be very convivial and agreeable. Occasionally an OR will telephone College out of the blue and with his flight path taking him over Rendcomb, pop in for an impromptu visit. Such occasions have been enlightening, as was the wonderful 60 Years On reunion in 2004. This is your school not mine; I just have happen to have been the Headmaster for the last twelve years, so please make sure you continue to visit and support.

I am also pleased that in my final year two interesting initiatives which I proposed, have come to fruition. When **Chris Wood** (1965-71, staff: 1976-2009) and the legendary **Bill White** (staff 1961-97), your president, had lunch on my fiftieth birthday in 2007, I floated the idea of producing a photographic history commemorating the school's 90th anniversary in 2010. This publication will roll off the press later this year. Additionally, when Major Tom Wills mentioned that the governing body seriously needed an OR on their board, I could think of no other person to propose than your own incredibly hardworking secretary, **Jane Gunner** (1975-77).

And finally before I become too misty-eyed, as Liese and I head east to Dover College in the summer, I am delighted that the governors have demonstrated their wisdom to appoint **Roland Martin** (1982-89) to be my successor from September.

Thank you to all ORs and your families for making The Holdens feel so much a part of your wonderful society and our warmest best wishes for the future.

Gerry Holden, Headmaster 1999-2011

### **Congratulations**

**Adam Binder** (1982-87) was named wildlife artist of the year 2010 and collected a £10,000 prize from actor Robert Lindsay and cricketer David Gower. The award was organised by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

**Alex Newman** (2006-09) got selected for the GB Cable Wakeboard team – Junior Men (that is, under 19) this summer. The team went to World Championships in Germany and got team Gold. Alex came 5th in his class, which was amazing for his first international competition - and a big one at that! Germany silver and Australia bronze. The team also got Silver in the European Championships in Turkey last year, Alex just missed a place in the final – so he was 7th in that. Germany won this time. He has been given Talented Athlete Sponsorship Scheme(TASS) sponsorship, which is a great help. He also gets sent regularly to Bath University for sports psychology, nutrition etc. The World Championships are bi-annual but he hopes to be picked again for the team for Europe this summer – after that next year he will hopefully move up to the Open Men's class.



**Eric Collett** (1935-37) for reaching his 90th birthday.

He writes: Celebrated event with upgraded television, a new computer and changed car for more recent model!  
He has written a book: "My Ninety Years" published by American publishers and can be seen on  
www.blurb.com.

**Hannah Bishop** (1998-2005) 1st Class Hons. in Biological Anthropology at the University of the West of England.

**Nicki Wells** (2001-04): 1st Class Hons. in music, Academy of Contemporary Music accredited by Middlesex University.

**Tanya Wells** (2001-04): 1st Class Hons. in Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick. (2010)

**Caroline Wells:** Distinction Master of Arts in Intelligence and International Security from King's College London (Department of War Studies).

**Annabel Howard** (1994-98) PhD in Medical Entomology (Biocontrol of malaria mosquitoes), Wageningen, Netherlands

### Births

**Will** (1986-91) and Harriet **King** a daughter, Martha Rose on 13th March 2010

**Gemma** (née **Leathart**, 1993-99) and Nicholai Thomasin-Foster a son Charles, born 4th May 2009.

### Marriages

**Will King** (1986 -91) married Harriet Lewis on May 9th 2009 at St. Andrews in Chedworth (pictured). guests included **Anthony Bunge** (1984-91) and **David Chapman** (1986-91).

**Toby Brealy** (1977-84) married Emma Darling in June 2008



### Obituaries

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

**John Holt** (Staff 1968-96)

John Holt died in October 2010; he had been suffering from pancreatic cancer for over a year.

John was educated at Monkton Coombe School, Bath. He then did his National Service in the Royal Artillery in Gibraltar and subsequently went up to Wadham College, Oxford to read English. His first teaching post was at Kingswood School, Bath where he met Anne at a concert and, after they were married, he moved to the King's School, Canterbury. He took over as head of English from Kathleen James and a large number of tributes have been received from former pupils expressing their appreciation of and gratitude for John's highly successful and inspiring teaching. During his time, 25 Old Rendcombians went on to read English at university.

John was an accomplished hockey player – he had played for Oxford Occasionals – and ran the 1st XI for eight years. He also coached a junior cricket game. Later he took charge of tennis. In 1975 John and Anne took over Godman House which in those days was the boarding house for the third year, where pupils who had been in the Junior House for two years were joined by 13 year old entrants. Ensuring that this group became a well-integrated unit required special skills and it says much for John and Anne’s expertise that a number of Old Rendcombians have written to say how much they valued the guidance they were given during their year in Godman House.

John was also editor of the Rendcombian for a number of years and of course will be remembered for the theatre trips he organised, and also for one very memorable holiday in the Loire Valley. But above all John will be remembered as a kind, considerate and modest man who made a great contribution to Rendcomb over his 28 years on the staff. All Old Rendcombians will wish to extend their deepest condolences to Anne, Elizabeth and Nicola.

John’s funeral service was held at Upper Westwood, near Bradford-on-Avon in a packed church. Elizabeth Holt spoke movingly about her father and Bill White gave the tribute.

The following Old Rendcombians and staff were there:

Jane Gunner (1975-77)	Nick Smith (1971-75)
Mike James (1968-75)	Chris Hart (1970-77)
Mike Craddock (ex-staff)	Ron Caves (ex-staff)
Julian (1946-54) and Helen Comrie	Martin Graham (staff)
Charlotte (staff 1970-94) and John Holdaway	Pete Sayers (1969-76)
Sally Patterson (née Blythe, 1973-75)	John Willson (staff 1967-88)
Colin (staff 1966-97) and Dorothy Burden	Roger Medill (headmaster 1971-87)
Chris (1965-71) and Penny Wood (ex-staff)	Tim and Sally Dyke (ex-staff)
Alex Andreis (1983-88)	Roland Martin (1982-89)
Bill White (staff 1961-1997)	Judy and Jeff Smith (1975-78)
Ron and Joyce Kelsey (staff 1969-95)	Katherine Trotman (née James)

Anne, Elizabeth and Nicola would like the Society to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all those people who sent their love and support not only as a result of John’s death but also during the long and difficult time during John’s illness. He and they appreciated it very much.

Bill White

### **John Wilfred Henry Neads (1934-40)**

John’s sister, Barbara Foyster writes:

The day that John was sent home from a small primary school in South Gloucestershire waving a piece of paper that showed he had been awarded a scholarship at Rendcomb College – a piece of paper that changed his life forever – was a day that he never forgot.

As he wrote himself in his contribution to the newsletter of May 2003, the education he received at Rendcomb and the life philosophy that it imparted, influenced his whole life. He lived by D.W. Lee-Browne’s watchword “guts and tolerance”, and from Oliver Morel he learnt to have a love and ‘feel’ for wood - his retirement home in New Zealand contains a variety of woods beautifully used. He was introduced to a range of pursuits at Rendcomb, including wide and diverse reading, skiing and other outdoor pursuits, and an interest in all cultures and human values that lasted throughout his life.

For further education he obtained a scholarship at Bristol Aeroplane Company’s (BAC) Student School, studying engineering drawing, heat engines and the theory of structures, statics and dynamics, graduating with a BSc in pure and applied mathematics, general physics and sound. John’s father was an aeronautical engineer and from early childhood John loved anything to do with aircraft.

In 1943 he obtained a release from reserved occupation at BAC and joined the Fleet Air Arm (sadly not as a pilot) as a specialist observer. After basic training he spent ten years on operational squadrons, culminating as lieutenant in command of a specialist unit of the Royal Canadian Navy. A period followed as Operations Officer for an aircraft carrier, and at the Admiralty, before being appointed to the British naval staff in Washington for three years working on technical evaluations of aircraft and equipment.

Returning to the UK he was appointed to the Ministry of Aviation as a liaison officer dealing with radio and radar installations in naval aircraft – subsequently being appointed Assistant Project Officer for SRN3 – the first large hovercraft evaluated by the Ministry of Aviation. On completion of trials he transferred with the BH7 hovercraft to the inter-services hovercraft unit as Trials Manager being totally responsible for trials of the BH7, including visits to Sweden, Germany and the USA. These trials were successfully completed in 1973 and he subsequently retired from the navy, after more than 30 years service, and at the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Returning to Surrey he worked locally for many years in financial administration, becoming increasingly knowledgeable in all aspects of the use of computers.

In 1995 he and his wife emigrated to New Zealand, to the east coast of the South Island where he designed and had built a house on a hill overlooking the South Pacific. He found many interests in the history of New Zealand and continued working at computers – with the advent of Google Earth he was once again able to travel around the world and revisit the happy scenes of his youth including Rendcomb.

John's first marriage was dissolved but he was delighted in later years to be reconciled with his younger son Jeremy and to meet his grandsons, now resident in Switzerland. He is survived in New Zealand by his beloved wife of 36 years, Cynthia, and his stepdaughter, Amanda and her husband; and in England by his sister and her family. He died peacefully after a short illness on 7th May 2010, three weeks prior to his 87th birthday.

**Alexander E. Godsell** (1933-38) died on 10th September 2010.

Alec was a farmer, a career he pursued all of his life.

He and his elder brother, Geoffrey spent holidays at Downton Farm with Granny Godsell at a very young age, when their mother died prematurely and they were eventually raised by their relatives, The Chamberlains, at Colethrop Farm.

While Geoffrey went on to an academic career, Alec had farming in his blood and while working on his uncle's farm started planning for the future by buying Barnhill Farm near Kingscote. For a while this meant running two farms at once. It was very hard work, which for a married man with a young family was no mean feat.

There were many people to help out in those days and at one time Colethorpe Farm employed ten men, although as things became more mechanised, fewer people were needed. In the 1950s there were still land girls helping out.

Alec really loved farming and always appreciated that he was lucky to be doing what he really wanted in life. His wife, Beryl, was a physiotherapist, and they met when she came to the farm to see Auntie Emily. Beryl didn't have a background in farming, but they fitted well together and went on to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Holidays were a bit hit and miss but occasionally they would get away, usually to Rhossili on the Gower Peninsula. There, Alec would get Beryl, the children and two dogs set up on the beach before disappearing off to do some serious crabbing. He made his own fishing gear and would be very successful, bringing back crabs and shrimps for the pot.

Gardening was also important to Alec and when the family was young he worked hard to make the garden provide a great deal of the food for the house. Beryl was rather hoping that once they had retired, she and Alec would be able to travel more and enjoy the holidays that hadn't been possible when they were younger. She hadn't perhaps anticipated that Alec, having retired from farming and sold all but ten acres of land would once more become a successful sheep farmer! Despite telling everyone that the plan 'to buy a few young sheep from Yorkshire, keep them for a year and then sell them on for breeding' was just a hobby, this soon became a business again with four hundred sheep to his name.

I can't really talk about Alec without mentioning Fly, his dog, who was such an important part of his life in the last few years. Alec had trained her as a working dog first using ducks and then progressing onto sheep.

A regular sight for locals was the red land rover with Alec and Beryl in the front and Fly sitting between them. Alec loved Fly and her death nearly four years ago was a terrible loss for him.

He was a man with a generous heart, good-tempered and always happy for other people to be doing what they enjoyed. He got genuine pleasure from giving rather than receiving, so much so that buying presents could be quite difficult. If you went to visit Alec, he'd often give you something out of the garden and was known for not letting visitors out of the house unless they had eaten at least one chocolate biscuit or a sweet.

Alec was passionate about his interests and a perfectionist too. He liked high standards in everything he did and most especially his farming practice, taking pleasure from an orderly farm and garden and winning prizes for the quality of his crops. He continued those high standards in his private life with his gentlemanly behaviour and honest dealings, which brought both respect and affection from those who knew him.

Those who knew Alec well would always recognize him by his whistling, which he did wherever he went. He was liked for his temperament and his sense of humour. Many people have commented upon the laughter that they shared with him over the years.

Alec was to lose his wife Beryl nearly six years ago and was to experience his own bouts of ill health in the intervening years. He remained in touch with current affairs and politics, especially involving farming and read the Daily Telegraph every day. Towards the end of his life he was hospitalized for several months and despite his suffering he didn't complain, becoming a great favourite with the staff who cared for him. They always said what a gentleman he was.

If the definition of a farmer was 'a man outstanding in his field' then Alec Godsell would be that man.

Alec and Beryl had three adopted children - Susan, Claire and Robert. I'm Robert Godsell and this is for my Dad.

**Roger Laycock** (1965-71) died in November 2009.

The OR Society is indebted to Gloucestershire Media for being allowed to reproduce the following obituary:



**SORELY MISSED** Roger Laycock's family say they are hugely proud of his efforts for others - he formed Tewkesbury Independent Aid in 1999.

A **SELFLESS** humanitarian who dedicated his life to helping others has died from cancer, 18 months after the disease also claimed his daughter's life. Roger Laycock died on Saturday at the age of 55 from bowel cancer. Suzanna lost her battle against sarcoma cancer in May last year, aged 29.

Mr Laycock's relatives are trying to cope with a second member of their family having had their life cut short. They have paid tribute to the man who founded Tewkesbury Independent Aid (TIA) in 1999 and volunteered his time at the National Star College. The tiny TIA organisation specialised in taking supplies to sick and disadvantaged people in countries in the former Eastern Bloc. He and his helpers took van-loads of aid to Kosovo, Ukraine, Macedonia and Albania.

The family say TIA will have to be wound up following Mr Laycock's death, but that they are proud of what he did on a voluntarily basis.

His wife, Sharon, lived with him in Tewkesbury until they moved to Malvern Road, Cheltenham, in August this year. They had only got married in April. She said: "Tewkesbury Independent Aid did a lot of good. There were a lot of other people involved but Roger founded it. Although it will now be wound up, donations can be made to Help for Heroes as he felt very strongly about that, having been in the Territorial Army."

The family said Mr Laycock saw some horrible sights while carrying out his mercy missions, but he kept going back to help people worse off than himself. He would do it all by taking holiday time from his job with Cheltenham-based Sapa Profiles Ltd, where he worked for more than 30 years.

His brother, Simon, said: "About two years ago, he took his first proper holiday for years, with Sharon in France. When the troubles were happening in Kosovo, we all watched it on television but Roger actually did something, by getting in his Land Rover and going over there. I always think that was a fantastic example to other people."

Mr Laycock also provided voluntary help at the Star College at Ullenwood, which caters for disabled children and where his wife also works. In early 2005, following the Indian Ocean tsunami, he arranged for aid he had collected to be taken out to the area. His son Spike said: "He will be sorely missed. He was a genuine friend to many people."

Mr Laycock is also survived by his daughter Debbie.

**Amanda Currens** née Jones (1974-76) died in August 2010

Amanda arrived at Rendcomb in September 1974, having been previously educated at several schools in both the north and south of England, following career moves by her father Don Jones in senior positions with ESSO.

Natural intellect combined with hard work and good looks were likely pointers to success and, taking 7th term Oxbridge, a place was duly won to study history at St Catherine's Oxford, much to delight of her parents and house tutor, Denis Price.

Amanda's talents were never going to be obvious on a cold and icy hockey pitch but certainly exercise was taken in the park even if accompanied by illicit packets of Silk Cut. The company of boys was also enjoyed by Amanda and accompanied by an air of home counties sophistication.

Her parents were very hospitable to all her friends and I recall one occasion when Toby Roberts (1971-76) and I were being given a lift back to London and we had not only the schoolboy thrill of being driven briskly in the ESSO Jaguar but also Amanda, Toby and I being treated by Don and Barbara to a steak supper en route because Don appreciated certain shortcomings of school catering.

Amanda transferred from Oxford and completed her studies at Bedford College in Regents Park, London



before marriage to Andrew Larcombe and settling into life in Sutton.

Amanda really enjoyed working in London for Jon Moulton in venture capital at a very exciting time for the industry, and whilst she optimistically married twice again (Roger Ward and Jeff Currens) her last marriage did produce a major event which brought enormous joy, being the birth of her daughter Catherine one Bonfire/Guy Fawkes night. Amanda was transformed by the birth and subsequent motherhood and her skill and determination to succeed as a single parent may surprise certain OR's who would not have placed maternal instincts high on Amanda's life skills list in 1976; they would have been so wrong.

This strength of character and obvious devotion to Catherine was witnessed over the last 10 years both on holidays spent with my wife and daughter in Spain and Cornwall but also on visits to us down in Bath and then our home in Somerset.

Reigate had been her hometown and through the local church a good network of friends supported her through some difficult times and Catherine was able to spend time at her grandmother Barbara's house.

Unfortunately whilst treatment of the dreaded cancer of the oesophagus was surgically successful, the secondary cancer was an obstacle which could not be overcome. The downhill slope was demonstrably sudden when I recall that a lunch we had on 8th June 2010 and having coffee outside in the sun would be followed by her death only 10 weeks later. Catherine will now live with her grandmother in Reigate, so a degree of continuation at least. Her funeral in the late summer sun was not only attended by ORs Paul Curtis-Hayward (1970-77) and myself, but also by George and Louise Longworth, parents of ORs Tim (1969-76) and Nick (1970-76) as a delightful link back to a time when Tim and Amanda were close. The OR Society was formally represented at the funeral but I also took along the specific representations of several OR friends who couldn't make the funeral (Taryn Nixon, Charlie Hussey, Philip Everatt and Toby Roberts). Catherine read out her favourite poem during the service and whilst all tried valiantly to be positive and celebrate her life, I am afraid the image of a young ten year old girl losing her mother made keeping back the tears an impossible task and Amanda will be missed enormously.

Robert Barrett (1969-76)

**A.R. (Dick) Margetts** (1935-43) died in April 2010 after a long illness.

Nan Margetts, his widow, writes that she met him in 1944 when they were both students. He was then a strapping six-footer with blond hair and no glasses, so she was amazed to see the photo of him in the 2010 newsletter (p 39) at Rendcomb looking short and bespectacled! They married in 1949 and Steve Curry (1935-43), who was also in the same newsletter picture, attended the wedding, later marrying one of the bridesmaids.

**Philip Cutts** (1934-42) died in June 2010 and the funeral was held at Chipping Camden.

**Michael G. Petter** (1944-52) died on 14th October 2010.

**A.E. Shields** (1929-34) died in April 2010.

**Marion Campbell**, who was a popular junior house matron for many years died on 26th March aged 88.

**Walter Langdon-Davies** (1925-30) died in August 2009 in Abbotsford.

He was distribution designer for BC Hydro from 1930 to his retirement in 1983 and was reputed to have walked the paths of most of the power lines in the South West. He was an accomplished musician, artist and carpenter and served on various councils and boards. He leaves a widow, Anne, and children David, Barbara and Terry.

### **Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly**

Sir Louis Le Bailly, who died last October aged 95, was chairman of the governors of Rendcomb College from 1980 to 1985. He was appointed KBE in 1972, after a long and distinguished career in the navy, ending it as Director General, Intelligence. His style of chairmanship included getting to know as many people as he could at Rendcomb - teaching staff, ground staff, ancillary staff and pupils - so he was often to be seen about the college. This enabled him to approach the problems confronting the governors with a more professional knowledge than usual. He enabled many necessary changes to be made, particularly over financial matters and saw to the appointment of Rendcomb's first bursar, Commander Edward Thring. He established the Future Policy Working Party and also arranged for some much-needed classrooms to be provided by converting the stable block flats. Sir Louis was educated at Oakley Hall in Cirencester where he was a contemporary of Sir David Wills; he therefore came to Rendcomb well acquainted with the area. Without doubt, his most lasting legacy has been the Friends of Rendcomb Trust, which he established in 1984 to provide financial support for pupils whose parents would not otherwise be able to send their son or daughter to the school. The Trust is still active; Colin Burden is the secretary and details are found in each newsletter. The college benefited greatly from the work done by Sir Louis and owes him a real debt of gratitude.

The Old Rendcombian Society extend their condolences to his widow and daughters.

### **Dr Howard T.H.M. Phelps**

Rendcomb College owes a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Howard Phelps, who retired from the board of governors in 2001 after 10 years. He was our chairman for 5 years, from 1996-2001, and had steered the college wisely and sympathetically during a period that proved exciting and challenging. After my arrival at Rendcomb in September 1999, he worked tremendously hard alongside me in my first year so that we were able to open our junior school in 2000, one year ahead of schedule. Looking back on that decision, he would be immensely proud of its development over the last ten years as it has grown to over 160 pupils and is a centre of educational excellence in its own right. Such vision was reflective of Howard's style as a risk-taker. Dr Phelps was born in Gloucester and went to Durham University where he received a BA (Hons). He was in the RAF as aircrew and specialised in radar, before joining the National Coal Board. He rose to be its deputy director general in 1970, and then was asked to join British Airways. He was the "world's favourite airline's" director of operations from 1972 to 1986. He became an executive director of P&O between 1986 and 1989. Other roles he has enjoyed have been trustee of the Prince's Youth Business Trust, deputy chairman of Durham University's governing body, chairman of Cirencester College, and several other industrial and commercial directorships.

Dr Phelps continued to take an interest in his retirement from Rendcomb by attending services at St Peter's and in his own local parish church of St Andrews in Chedworth. He sadly passed away on 9 February 2011. May his soul rest in peace.

Gerry Holden, headmaster 1999-2011

**Richard Letts** died in December 2010. He was formerly headmaster of Oakley Hall School in Cirencester, from where many ORs came to Rendcomb.

### **Memories**

#### **Saul's Toe**

Saul's broken toe has been the subject of much speculation, irreverence, surmise, hilarity and myth-making over the years. The more time moves on, the remoter the real facts become. I was there when it happened. In fact I'm the only living witness.

I was standing close to the statue on the Clock Hall side. My friend Peter Harris was the other side of the extended foot, holding a sledge-hammer. (Don't ask. Oh, OK then, we'd been doing P.W. (Public Work) on the estate) As we chatted Peter was idly tapping Saul's right great toe with the sledge-hammer. Like you do. It wasn't an intentionally destructive act, just schoolboy absent-mindedness.

Suddenly, to our fascinated horror, the toe and part of the sandal sheared off. It was only a light tap. (Peter was an excellent cricketer with a neat late cut.) After a brief panic and one or two aborted plans to conceal the crime and bury the evidence, we decided to face the music. We took the broken bit and went to see the head (DWL-B), who was less exercised than we'd expected.

It must have been 1947 or 1948. Various attempts were made to repair and restore the statue, none very successful. So now the ancient nine-toed king models an early prototype of the platform sole.

Gerard Benson (formerly Chagrin, 1944-50)



The Society is indebted to **Desmond Painter** (1943-52) for allowing it to publish extracts from his memoirs while at Rendcomb. Further articles will be printed in next year's edition.

*Big School:* From Berkhamsted I moved on in September 1943 to Rendcomb College, a 'progressive' boys' boarding school housed in an Italianate Victorian villa on a Cotswold hillside five miles north of Cirencester, where my cousins Don Grant and Brian Plenderleith were in the sixth form, and where I went at the same time as Brian's younger brother Barry. It was founded in 1920 with an endowment of Wills tobacco money that provided scholarships for Gloucestershire boys, non-locals paid fees. Two of the founding principles of the school were self-government (in the form of a general meeting of all the boys, with sub-committees), and the provision of ample unorganised free time. One unusual aspect of the regime arising from the idea of self-government was allowances, provided by the school: once a week the headmaster sat at the table in the hall handing out a small amount of money to each boy, who then traipsed round to the History Room, where tax collectors (boys appointed by the General Meeting) took almost all of it off him again, leaving a handful of coppers to spend in the tuck shop. The money financed entertainments and other activities as decided by the Meeting. The self-government was however considerably attenuated by the authoritarian style of the second headmaster, Denis Lee-Browne, who was in full flow when I joined the school in September 1943. He was a large, heavily-built man with thick black hair, a florid complexion, a loud voice and a sometimes overbearing manner; but also with great understanding of and sympathy for adolescent boys. Although in many ways he held reactionary views, he had also a refreshing willingness to be unorthodox when occasion warranted. Under his regime, in addition to the rules made by the meeting and enforced by a council of senior boys, there were 'school' rules made by the head, which of course took precedence. On the other hand, he preserved and encouraged the free time principle and was keen on practical activities: the workshop and art room were always open, and well patronised by the boys. At one time Lee-Browne dispensed free model aircraft kits; and boys were encouraged to take the canoes that they had built on the lake, and to explore the extensive park and surrounding countryside, including by bicycle. Visits to Cirencester or Cheltenham required an exeat.

*Staff:* Rendcomb was from its beginnings a small school (though appreciably bigger nowadays). In my time there were 86 boys (my school number was 86); later increased to 90. The effects of this were mixed: small classes and an informal atmosphere, but a limited curriculum (no geography except in the first year; no Greek; French, but no second modern language; no chemistry (special arrangements were made for the few science sixth boys who needed it)). The school was somewhat top-heavy, with over one-third in the three-year sixth form, and had lost some of its staff to the forces, so the teachers tended to be elderly, infirm or female. The formidable Mabel Carnell, who could quell unrest in the classroom with a single raised eyebrow, doubled as headmaster's secretary and music teacher. Deputy head John James and his wife Kathleen, who lived in a house in the village, made a strong team teaching history and English respectively (James also taught Latin, though a classicist, Rupert Thackray, was appointed later, and afterwards went on to become a professor of music in Australia). Maths was taught by a popular young woman called Elsa Young, who had an open, friendly manner and an ample bosom; science was taught in the stable block in the village by 'Dickers' and 'Eggy' (Granston Richards, a physicist, and Ernest Neal, a biologist who took the sixth formers badger-watching in Conigre Wood and wrote a Penguin book about the animals on which he had become an authority). Art (in the Old Rectory, known simply as 'the House') was the province of 'Molly' Hubert Molyneux, a softly spoken and gifted art teacher with a sympathetic manner who made and supervised the making of splendid puppets. He never managed to get anything very artistic out of me, and I did not take art when it came to school certificate time, but he did paint a portrait of me which Lee-Browne gave mum when it was found after the artist left. It was unfinished, but mum thought it caught me well. I was equally unskilled in woodwork, taught by John Parry and a succession of other masters following the famous Oliver Morel, who had left not long before I arrived. I did manage an elm chopping board and an oak table lamp (neither very distinguished pieces), which I presented to mum, and which still survive, but one of my reports sums it up: "He is happiest making model aeroplanes".

Other staff included Robin Wilson, an inebriated Irishman who taught me the Greek alphabet in his room during evenings when I should have been at choir practice, and John Knowles, a diminutive Lancastrian with a club foot (and thus exempt from military service), who taught French and was a demon ping-pong player. He was known as 'Arky' Knowles because he once introduced a lesson on animal names with an elaborate blackboard drawing of Noah's Ark. French words were written up using the phonetic alphabet, which Knowles had obviously learnt at training college, a technique which caused us both puzzlement and hilarity ("Is that a phonetic horse, sir?"), and which led for a time by some obscure process to my being nicknamed 'wazo'. Knowles was succeeded by A.C. (Tony) Austin, who was six foot eight tall, an enthusiast for cricket and Wagner. This colourful cast of characters was somewhat variable in quality, as was my application to the subjects they taught, and in the event I only just made it to 'matric' when exam time came in 1948: distinction in French, credits in English language, maths, Latin and history, and a pass in biology. I failed physics and English literature, and did not take art or woodwork. On balance, a fair reflection of my interest in and commitment to the various subjects.

*Oliver George Morel (1916-2003) was a pupil of the Arts and Crafts woodworker Ernest Barnsley at Froxfield, and after leaving Rendcomb set up his own workshop in Herefordshire and later in Moreton-in-Marsh.*

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to **Nigel Powell** (1967-74) for sending us the missing copy of the College Chronicle, as requested in the last newsletter. We now have a complete collection from 1920.

**Nick Carmichael** (1989-96) duly completed the Gobi March (a 250km race across the desert in China) in June 2010. The event essentially consisted of 6 marathons in 6 days, with no facilities beyond first aid and a tent space at night. He was competing in aid of his charity, the friends of Camilla Milbank Appeal, which he founded after both his sister-in-law and father-in-law were severely injured in 2009. Nick's fundraising efforts were assisted by Rendcomb staff (Mike Slark, Paul Jennings, Paul Dodd, Carlo Vuolo, Martin Graham and Hugh Marsden), who contributed their winnings from quizzes in The Bathurst Arms, which made a total of £143.



250km or 150 miles  
6 marathons  
6 stages over 7 days  
1 rest day (depending how quickly you complete the long stage .... !!)  
Self supported, meaning you have to carry:  
Food for the week  
Clothes and kit for the week  
The organisers provide:  
A place in a tent each night  
Medical assistance  
Water (rationed)



Average day - for Britain (and Camilla, 'Mil')



Dan Brandt and Nick

## Old Rendcombian News

### **The New Headmaster**

The governors have appointed Roland J. Martin to be headmaster from September 2011, when Gerry Holden becomes headmaster of Dover College after twelve years at Rendcomb.



Roland Martin (1982-89), who is an Old Rendcombian, has taught English at Eton College for the past twelve years and has been a housemaster for the last six years. He read English at York University and began his teaching career at Newcastle-under-Lyme school. All Old Rendcombians will want to wish Roland and his family an enjoyable and successful time at Rendcomb.

**Ben Uglow** (1978-85) writes to say that he is very happily married to Manja, who is Dutch. They have three children (Thomas 8, Tamsin 6, Tristan 4) and one dog, Livia - named after Claudius's evil grandmother which, he says, shows his classical teaching did not go to waste! He has spent several years working and living in New York, before moving to Oxfordshire. He spends most of the week in London, working in an investment bank. In New York he worked with **Blaise Jenkins** (1978-85). His brother, **Simon** (1979-86) is a close friend and has done well in finance. He also sees **Karen Pratt (Arnold)** (1983-85) and **Jo Le Querec (Merrett)** from time to time, both happy busy mothers.

**Lindsay Haslett** (staff 1985-96) has been warden of St. Columba's College, Dublin for ten years, a job he very much enjoys. His wife, Marie, is head of History at the same school. His elder daughter, Sophie, is in her final year at Bristol and Kate has just started a degree in History at Royal Holloway College. He says he remains fiercely fond of Rendcomb and that he and Marie miss Gloucestershire.

**Norman Crowe** (1968-75) writes to say that he and **Teta** (1973-75) have moved from Somerset to the New Forest as both their sons have finished at Millfield. They have a hobby farm with sheep, pigs, hens and bees. Teta is a keen farmer! They see the **Taylors** regularly, also the **Sayers, Westons, Mike Denley** and **Kevin Barraclough**. In November they visited **Nick** (1969-74) and **Elaine** (1972-74) **Roberts** who are in Samoa: their son manages a game lodge in Uganda.

**Paul Rose** (1968-75) is on the staff at Plymouth College where **Simon Wormleighton** (1968-75) is headmaster. He wrote in November with recollections of John Holt, as did many Old Rendcombians. Paul is still playing hockey each weekend and has represented the West at over 50 level (which he feels would have pleased John Holt) in two national tournaments. He says his brother, **Tony** (1965-71), has just become a grandfather and that he and Tony are doing their best to keep the BSA marque of motorcycle on the roads. He says he expects to spend a good deal of time sailing or restoring motorcycles when he takes his planned retirement in 2012.

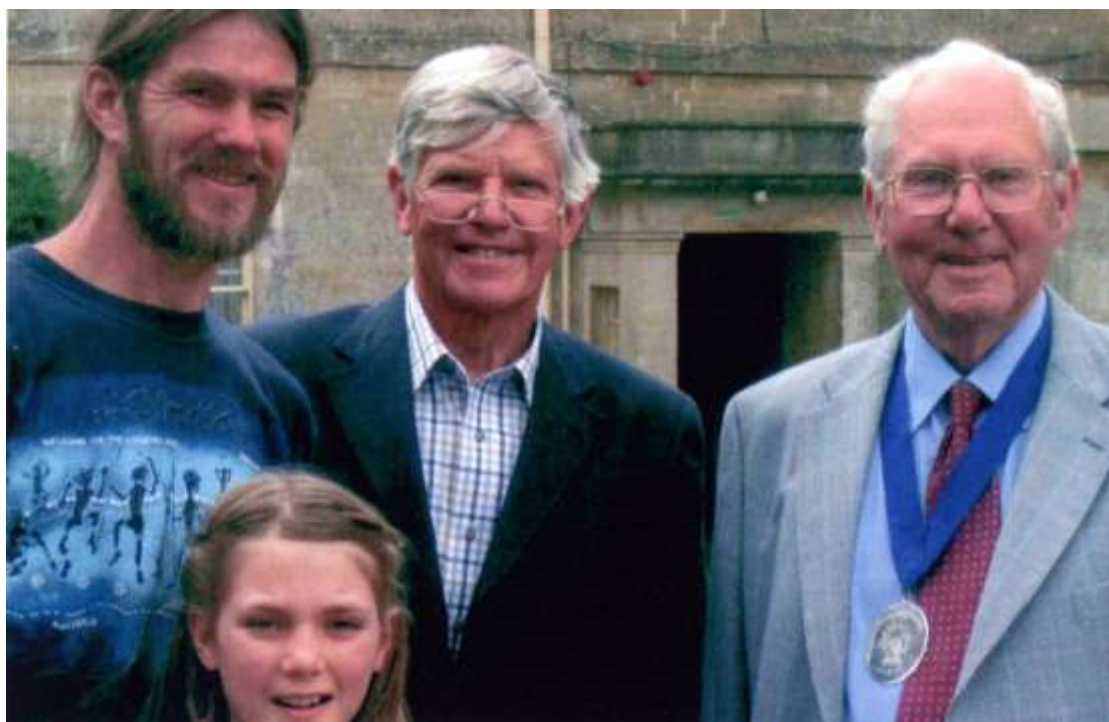
**Michael Curtis-Hayward** (1973-80) also wrote about John Holt. He is a solicitor and “dabbling on the fringes of the literary world.”

**Graham Jordan** (1966-73) recently read an article in *Cotswold Life* sent to him by his mother about the Ernest Cook Trust and decided he should write to them with this account of his career as they sponsored his education at Rendcomb:

“I left Rendcomb in 1973, grateful for having had such a personal education in a delightful environment. After a few years at university I decided to reject the academic life and work with my hands; I had become disillusioned by damage to the environment, associating this with big corporations and impersonal technology. I travelled around the world for a few years searching for answers and looking for simpler ways of living which would embrace a wholesome life without so much waste and pollution. In 1980 I married, settled in Australia, bought a small block of land (where bananas would grow!) built a cottage from rocks found on the hillside, had children and was ready to live our dream.

This dream incorporated our ideas of self sufficiency and being responsible for our own food and energy production. This idea, now known as Permaculture, developed integrated sustainable systems with minimal detrimental impact to the environment and other people.

The land we choose was rainforest 200 years ago, had been cleared and used for dairy farming. The impact of heavy footed animals on the steep slopes had compacted the soil, and as it deteriorated, it had become weedy. The volcanic soil had good potential, and with adequate rainfall being in the subtropical zone the growing season was all year around. Fruits such as bananas, brassicas and lettuce would grow well; the summer is warmer and wetter and suitable for corn, tomatoes, beans and cucumbers. Eating habits have changed to follow the flavours of the season and the vagaries of the weather. The nutrition for the plants comes from the natural cycles of composting, companion planting and rotational cropping, rather than outside chemical fertilizers. A greater reliance on fruit trees minimises soil cultivation and gives long term food production. No chemicals are used; all the water we use we collect from our roofs and store in tanks, and the surrounding land has been reforested for soil erosion control and new habitat. A diverse ecosystem returns; koalas and wallabies, brush turkeys and goannas can now thrive.



Graham and his daughter, Miranda, with Colin Burden and Bill White, when they visited Rendcomb in 2008

And in the same way as the gardens and orchards grew from a denuded weedy hillside, we use as much natural materials and recycled products in our buildings. Stone is used for walls, and sometimes the soil for mud bricks. Large verandas protect the outside walls and give lots of outside living, keeping a connection to nature. Heating is done with wood stoves, solar hot water for washing; photovoltaic panels provide all our electricity rather than being connected to the grid, and we use compost toilets to minimise water usage and recycle the nutrients. Providing our own power and water takes a lot of effort setting up the systems and maintaining them, but making these deliberate choices are well worthwhile.

Over the years many visitors came, some of them as WWOOFers (Willing Workers On Organic Farms), a scheme where travellers can help out in exchange for board and lodgings. Some wanted to stay, so in 1988 we

formally became an intentional community, formed an Incorporated Association and a small group started living together. We decided to build an expanded dwelling, whereby each resident/couple/ family has their own private accommodation, which is loosely connected to the main community facilities. Apart from the constitution, which is a legal document, we have gradually agreed on bye laws and policies which are our own common intentions and agreements to live together. Obviously over the years these have been tested, and sometimes aggravations between people can escalate into disputes; so our conflict resolution process is very important. The willingness to understand each other, to offer solutions and adapt to them is our commitment to greater harmony. Decisions are made by consensus rather than voting, which is more inclusive and less likely to alienate and cause more problems.

At present there are 5 members (we plan for 10 eventually), which together with partners, visitors and children makes a group of about 15 people. We share some meals together, spend one day per fortnight working and talking together and participate in a morning per month doing land care. It is important to get a good balance between personal time and group events, the joys of living closely with other people and the commitment this involves. We believe we have a richer more supportive life this way.

I think the experience of Rendcomb gave me the impetus to be part of an organised community and nurture the environment and I am curious whether other ex-Rendcombians had a similar influence.”

**Eric Blencowe** (1976-83) also wrote about John Holt both as an English teacher and a caring housemaster. He has had another busy year – having visited Brazil, Kenya and Japan as well as numerous visits to Brussels. He is still enjoying biodiversity conservation, though he shares the concerns of many about the effects of the current financial climate on us all, especially the young people who will have to pick up the pieces.

**Robin Webb** (1974-81) finds his work takes him in and out of 10 Downing Street as Director of Innovations.

**Chris Morshead** (1974-77) takes up a post as manager and curator of the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum in Norfolk in 2011.

**Wendy Musto** (staff 1987-96) is still based at a Christian teaching centre at Gex in France. She has been suffering from poor health, firstly M.E. and secondly severe back problems. Miraculously, as she says, both problems have disappeared in recent months: the back problem abated when she was in Poland with a group for a week of prayer for Europe. She feels strongly that God has been supporting her. She was recently helping out at the Youth With A Mission base next to Gex at a Discipleship Training School. She has also been teaching French to others called to work in France. Last year in October she went to Belgium, Luxembourg and Strasbourg with a team of people from France “as God has laid in our hearts to encourage and organise prayer events in every nation in Europe in the next four years.”

**Fiona Burge** (née **Reichwald**, 1988-90) set up her own business last October called Silver B Ltd, [www.thesilverb.co.uk](http://www.thesilverb.co.uk). She will be doing a small Christmas gift fair in Colesbourne in aid of Winston’s Wish on Thursday 20th October 2011. If anyone would like more information, they can contact her at [fiona@thesilverb.co.uk](mailto:fiona@thesilverb.co.uk).

**Annabel Howard** (1993-98) writes: “I just completed my PhD, titled ‘Natural Products for Malaria Vector Control: Flora, Fish and Fungi’. For the PhD I lived and worked in Africa for 3 years carrying out laboratory and field studies in Kenya and Benin. I then moved to The Netherlands to write it up and defend it at Wageningen University. My plan now is to move to Angola (with my soon-to-be husband) to carry on my work.”

**Ken Jordan** (1962-65) writes: “When I left Rendcomb in 1965 my family bought a few acres in Auckland, New Zealand, and created Rendcomb Place. After 45 years the last family member has moved from there and I have changed my mailing address for receiving the newsletter accordingly. For a while I have supported the All Blacks and I am really looking forward to the 2011 Rugby World Cup in NZ. I played until I was 30, but by NZ standards I was only average. My son Oliver (24) is quite good and recently played for Auckland Under 85 kgs in a final of an international tournament at Eden Park, and won. Now with his British passport he’s working in London, but is too busy snowboarding etc. to play rugby. My farm is about 70 kms out of Auckland, but if any Old Rendcombians are coming down to the Cup it would be good to get in touch.”

**Jane Poulter** (née **Stephenson**, 1978-80) writes: “We are in Papua New Guinea at the moment but returning to Australia in December 2010 for good, I think. So, if anyone is heading that way...let me know. Australia is great - just so far from everywhere! I may be in the UK next year on my way back to Jamaica, so will be in touch then.”

**Kim Knight** (1977-79) is living and working in Auckland, New Zealand, and still hears from a few ORs.

**Peter Hayes** (1949-57) is still in Malawi and has struggled to get hold of newsletters, but is now in touch once again.

**Roger Stebbing** (1952-59) and his wife Joyce came over from the States in September. They are patrons of the Global Peace Initiative. They are pictured here with the artist Lauren Voiers at the unveiling of the second of seven Global Peace Initiative monuments in Liverpool so there is an ORs name on the monument.

**Geoffrey Hulbert** (2000-05) is managing a call centre in Arizona.

**George Ord** (2008-10) is on his gap year coaching rugby by a New Zealand School. He wrote to the headmaster pointing out what a small world it is as the head boy there, Baxter Perry, is a cousin of Bex Perry who tutored at Rendcomb. He also saw **Sophie Musgrave** (2007-10) and her family as they were over there for Christmas.



## College News

### **Gerry and Liese Holden**

This summer Rendcomb says goodbye to Gerry and Liese Holden as they move on to Dover College. The Old Dovorians website states that “at Rendcomb College the ethos is very similar to that at Dover College, with an accent on looking after the individual and developing their strengths”. Gerry has led the school for twelve years, which is a typical period of office for Rendcomb headmasters: J.H. Simpson (1920-32), D.W. Lee-Browne (1932-60), A.O.H. Quick (1961-71), R.M.A. Medill (1971-87), J.N. Tolputt (1987-99).



Gerry was head of history at Forest School in London before heading a larger history department at Millfield School in Somerset, followed by deputy head and director of studies at Frensham Heights School in Surrey. This latter post made it easy for him to adjust to the delicate balance of formality and informality to be found at Rendcomb.

His Scottish accent reinforced his presence, particularly in assemblies and the coloured handkerchief worn in the top pocket of his jacket (and occasionally outrageous socks) always completed the dapper appearance. This was in keeping with his aim of the pupils looking smart on all occasions, culminating in the current return to jackets and ties which were worn in the 1920s and 1930s.

He always emphasized the inclusiveness of Rendcomb in terms of pupils, teaching staff and non-teaching staff and this was practised in school photographs. This soon included the junior school, opened in 2000 by Richard Dunwoody (1975-81) which gave a new dimension to the school.

He worked hard to maintain a thriving school and on occasions progress was thwarted by challenges such as the competition for sixth form places from local sixth form colleges and grammar schools. However, during his twelve years Rendcomb has experienced many changes such as a three form entry in Form 1, the highly successful replacement of netball by lacrosse, more widespread use of



ICT in the classroom, the summer arts festival, the refurbishment of Park House, the reorganization of the school day and the important connection with Lords Meade Vocational College in Uganda ([www.lordsmeade.org](http://www.lordsmeade.org)). Ugandan teachers have visited Rendcomb and Gerry and other staff have visited and taught the huge classes at Lords Meade. It has also been a destination for ORs using a travel bursary and this has included his son, Alex Holden (2000-07) who is reading music at Cardiff.



Liese brought a wealth of talent to the marketing of the school, including *Rendcombian* and the prospectus. Consequently Gerry and Liese impressed the United States Air Force when two of their schools closed and hence secured a significant number of pupils. Sadly this arrangement came to a premature end when USAF withdrew from RAF Fairford in 2010.

Gerry steered the school through two inspections and worked tirelessly to ensure that the 2008 report was fair and accurate. Somehow he finds time to be an ISI inspector and he is chairman of the SHMIS Professional Development Committee and has also served on the HMC/GSA Professional Development Committee. He has produced a series of publications on the theme of sharing excellent practice in SHMIS schools. Gerry and Liese have always been great supporters of the church, both St. Peter's, Rendcomb and St. John Baptist's, Cirencester, and, given their exceptional support and encouragement of the OR Society, it was most fitting that the advent carol service in December 2010 was arranged by David White (staff 1989-04) with many ORs performing and in the congregation. It also seems most appropriate that Gerry should hand over the reins to an OR, Roland Martin (1982-89).

Many are indebted and most grateful to Gerry and Liese for their hard work, support and friendship during these last twelve years and we wish them a successful and enjoyable experience at Dover College.

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

### **Gerry Holden**

I don't know if Gerry Holden was looking forward to inheriting, along with his new appointment as headmaster of Rendcomb, a deputy head who had already been in place for nine years. If he had misgivings he certainly did not show them and right from the start we got on well - he was blessed with immense energy and a wealth of ideas and I wasn't. Over the next eight years before I retired in 2007 he brought many of those ideas to fruition and Chris Wood has admirably listed Gerry's achievements in his tribute. I will dwell on just one or two. Firstly the creation of a junior school was brought about incredibly quickly; Gerry overcame a wide range of potential obstacles, such as the necessary massive relocation of classrooms, the closure of a boarding house by stages and considerable upheaval in other boarding accommodation. Our initial doubts about the idea were overcome and the plan proceeded as Gerry gained the support of staff, governors, existing parents, prospective junior school parents and most importantly the existing senior school pupils. They quickly accepted the new layout of the two schools and the presence of a younger generation.

Secondly, Gerry has worked enormously hard to maintain a vibrant sixth form at Rendcomb – genuinely co-educational with real opportunities for both girls and boys to make their mark without the tokenism evident in some independent boys’ schools, where girls have only reluctantly been admitted. In fighting off competition for sixth-formers from the sixth form colleges and the grammar schools Gerry realised that the battle could be won by showing how much Rendcomb has to offer – to all its sixth form students, not just some. He has always enjoyed being in close touch with his senior pupils – whether it was meeting with prefects, watching games teams, encouraging sixth form entertainments, supporting cultural occasions, or simply having a drink in the sixth form bar.

Gerry has loved taking an active interest in all aspects of school life and his enthusiastic support has helped staff to launch new ventures such as sports day and the arts festival, to which pupils have really taken. This hands-on approach is essential in a small school where you are expecting everyone to play his or her part but it does leave the headmaster bearing a very heavy burden in both dealing with the outside world and directing operations internally. A resilient character and a capacity for hard work have enabled Gerry to cope with both roles, even in the tough situations that from time to time confront all heads. The demands of the job have left him very little time for teaching history but my classes were suitably impressed – or diverted – on the few occasions when he filled in for my absence. He really enjoyed covering lessons for colleagues who were absent – it didn’t matter what the subject was, he would tackle it with great enthusiasm and the teacher would have to pick up the pieces on his or her return. I enjoyed working with him – he sometimes listened to my advice and when he didn’t he was usually proved right anyway. We shared a lot of laughs – not least over the state of Scottish football and one particular Edinburgh team; it is just as well that Rendcomb is not an official soccer school, judging by his efforts on the pitch. His golf is better – much better – but like all good Scots he always has a hard luck story somewhere in a round.

Throughout his time at Rendcomb Gerry has been superbly supported by Liese and she has contributed a great deal to the school, not least through the outstanding issues of the *Rendcombian* magazine and in the vital area of publicity. They have been enormously hospitable and have kept a very open house, when at times they might have yearned for just a bit of privacy! Rendcomb owes them both a very great debt of gratitude while I personally am grateful for their friendship and support. I wish them well at Dover College.

Bobby Morgan (staff:1990-2007)

**Fiona Hicks** (2004-06) writes:

“My first memory of the incomparable Gerry Holden stems from before I was even a student at Rendcomb. I was there for my interview, grappling with the desire to appear nonchalant yet desperate to impress. Not a winning combination, it has to be said. I entered the headmaster’s office - and in my haste to get it all over with as quickly as possible - made a beeline for the nearest chair.

As I settled down it dawned on me that I had in fact sat in the headmaster’s seat. Horror of horrors! As a 16-year-old who took herself far too seriously, I thought that was it. Such a faux pas would surely mean my interview would be over before it had even begun. The smiling Mr Holden, displaying none of the stuffy awkwardness I had come to expect of headmasters, simply sat on the other chair. After a moment’s pause – as if he had just decided on a whim – he said: “Actually, Miss Hicks, I think I’ll sit where you are, if you don’t mind. That way you’ll have to look at me instead of all the beautiful view outside!”

This little incident epitomises Gerry Holden’s ability to immediately make anyone feel at ease, and make even the most daunting circumstance enjoyable. During my subsequent brief but wonderful two years at Rendcomb (my interview was not a disaster after all!), I was fortunate to see this rare skill of his again and again.

With a perpetual twinkle in his eye (and on occasion a mischievous grin to rival those of the first-formers!) Mr Holden truly set the tone for Rendcomb. It is an extraordinary headmaster who is able to regulate and giggle with his students in equal measure – but it is a balance that Mr Holden has down to an art.

From his encouraging addresses in assembly, to the witty comments as you passed him in the hallway, and even the sight of him enjoying a walk with his beloved dog Bramble, he epitomised the attitude I have come to associate with Rendcomb College: do not to take life too seriously, yet appreciate every opportunity and experience and give it your all anyway because everything really is so much more fun that way.

It was, and is, a gem of a life lesson from a treasure of a person! Those students who have passed through Rendcomb in the past decade and enjoyed Mr Holden’s tutelage have been lucky indeed. Rendcomb has benefited immeasurably from his influence, and I am sure that wherever he moves on to, he will continue to amuse, encourage and inspire.

And I, for one, will always smile if I fail to sit in the right chair!”

*Fiona Hicks is now at the News of the World, having graduated from Durham with a degree in English literature. She hopes to work her way up to the Times!*

### **Mrs Judy Hunt**

Judy Hunt came to Rendcomb in September 1992 as Assistant Matron. She was born in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and brought up in Sunderland. She started work as a casualty sister in Sunderland and soon joined Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps with whom she spent five years based variously in Aldershot, Woolwich, Germany and Hong Kong. She then left to get married and had two children, William and Philippa, both of whom came to Rendcomb. Later she first took a job in industry, keeping her preference for the medical profession by working for Wellcome Medical Laboratories, and she went on to work for Plessey in Swindon. Judy stayed in the medical profession because she felt it was a challenge, especially at Rendcomb where no two days were alike and she was always kept busy. Judy soon established a reputation for her fair-minded, business-like approach to her job, her efficiency and her natural ability to establish a rapport with pupils of all ages. She was both popular and appreciated by both staff and pupils and Rendcomb has been most fortunate to have had her loyal and dedicated service for the past 18 years. We wish her and Geoff a long and happy retirement. William is now a captain in the army and Philippa is pursuing a career in Veterinary Science.

Bill White

### **Sandy Westhead**

Chris Wood writes:

Sandy joined the staff in 1994 to teach girls' games and later became head of girls' games. Her thorough preparation, energy and natural but firm manner made her popular with the pupils who always had great confidence in her. Equally staff liked working alongside Sandy because they knew that they would receive excellent support. Sandy organised the girls' hockey tour to the Netherlands in 1998. Not surprisingly the tour was a huge achievement for the games department and in her inimitable way she made sure that everyone enjoyed the experience.

To some extent she reinvented herself by training to be a learning support teacher and she developed Rendcomb's department with much success, giving many one to one lessons to boost pupils' confidence and liaising with other departments to improve teaching and learning. She also took on the often difficult role of Child Protection Officer which she carried out with professionalism as you would expect of her. Alongside this she also taught Geography on occasions. Overall Sandy has contributed much in many areas of Rendcomb life and many Rendcombians are most grateful to her. We hope that she enjoys a long, well-deserved and happy retirement although, knowing Sandy, it is certain to be busy one!



**Jenny** (1978-80), **Adam** (1980-82), **Harley** (2002-09) and **Holly Phelps** (current pupil) write:

For those of us whose children have benefited from Sandy Westhead's support, I would like to thank Sandy for a commitment and dedication towards helping their progress. Sandy has always shown a genuine interest in their progress,

and applied a gentle persuasion of the importance of the task in hand. Reading is a simple gift, but for those children who find the written word a challenge, the support of a kind dedicated tutor is invaluable. Her patience, technical advice and guidance to children with dyslexia has been a great asset to Rendcomb. We wish her a very happy and well deserved retirement.

**Vicki Hayward** (staff 1997-2010)

Lindsey North wrote for the Rendcombian: Vicki Hayward joined the teaching staff of Rendcomb College in September 1997 to teach a full timetable of French across all seven year groups. This was her first appointment, and she arrived with the highest recommendation from her tutor.

She was quick to find her feet and to establish herself as an excellent teacher and classroom manager. She was always prepared to ask, if unsure, and has enjoyed the respect and appreciation of all pupils and staff. She has the special blend of no nonsense discipline, along with the ability to care for and to help the less able and those who, for whatever reason, do not relish the proprieties of formal classroom situations. Her support for those she teaches has always been well judged and unswervingly fair and consistent.

It came as no surprise, therefore, that, when the College was in need, Vicki came forward and temporarily ran Godman House, the junior girls' house. Then, for seven years, she successfully ran Lawn House, whilst, at the

same time, continuing to teach a full timetable. As the then sitting housemaster of Stable, no one knows more than myself the demands that such a dual role makes upon you. It is a tribute to Vicki that those girls, several of whom are now entering the upper sixth, speak so highly and affectionately about her, and are deeply saddened at her departure.

She left the country over the summer half-term to join her husband, Darrell, who had already taken up his new post in Switzerland. Vicki leaves us a lesser place. I thank her for all she has done for French at Rendcomb, the College thanks her for this and so much more and we wish her and Darrell success and happiness in their new adventure.



**James McKelvey** (staff 2006-10)

Roy Raby, Director of Music, wrote about James for the Rendcombian as follows: James McKelvey joined the music department as Assistant Director of Music in September 2006. In the years that followed, he demonstrated an enduring commitment to the college and his students, as an outstanding classroom practitioner, an inspiring performer and choral director, a steadfast tutor and a highly able coach. He devised and directed two memorable carol services, founded the Men's Vocal Consort to encourage boys to take up singing and assisted in the musical direction of the senior school productions. He also instigated sight-singing classes and accompanied countless students on the concert platform and in the examination room. Mr McKelvey enriched the lives of many students during his time at the college and shared his talents without prejudice. He will be greatly missed and leaves with our best wishes as he takes up the position of Director of Music at Our Lady's, Abingdon, from September 2010.

**Malcolm Ford** (staff 2002-10)

Malcolm Ford joined the staff at Rendcomb in 2002, following the departure of Debbie Botham. Although appointed as head of physics, his computing skills were quickly made use of when the new head of the ICT department dropped out before starting. It was therefore not long before Malcolm found himself in charge of two departments, a daunting task even in a relatively small school. Fortunately, Malcolm's experience in industry at ICI and ICT applications at Capita made him well suited to the task. Malcolm has always had a placid and amenable nature and this, coupled with his ability to explain even the most difficult aspects of physics, endeared him to those he taught. If a student had a good physics question, Malcolm would respond even if it was not directly on the syllabus, a trait I admired and used myself, as it responds to pupil needs and maintains interest in the subject. He had great enthusiasm for the subject and I particularly miss the discussions Malcolm and I used to have while walking between the stable block and main college at break and lunch. Although we sometimes had to let departmental administrative matters intrude, our discussions were usually on finer matters of physics and I believe were of benefit in our subsequent teaching. Later in his time at Rendcomb, Malcolm managed to relinquish the ICT department and took over the role of examinations officer. This is another daunting role with huge administrative responsibilities. Throughout all this he managed to maintain an active role in coaching rugby within the school. Many was the time he was frantically getting kitted up in the physics lab prior to a cold afternoon on top field! It was a pleasure to work with Malcolm. Although supportive whenever needed, he showed complete trust in the ability of those he supported to get on with the job. We all wish him well in his retirement.

Neil Bayard (staff 2000-07)

**Philip Dunn** (staff 1984-2011)

Philip Dunn, who has taught guitar at Rendcomb for many years is sadly retiring due to ill health. An outstandingly gifted musician he was also very patient with those like me who did not naturally excel at music (as demonstrated by me taking seven years to get grade 1 piano) while Mr Dunn's triumph was my passing grade 6 classical guitar and continuing to inspire me to carry on playing after leaving the college. Mr Dunn has taken part in many Rendcomb musical productions and has helped to make them locally renowned. I wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Luke Gunner (1998-2005)

### **Cricket - 27th June 2010**

Due to a mix up with the college calendar this year it was not possible to arrange a cricket match between the OR's and a Rendcomb XI. This is a format that has worked well in the past and the OR's committee is hopeful that the lesser attraction of an ORs vs. ORs match was the main reason for such a poor response to the cricket reunion this year. In the end, sadly, the day was essentially cancelled with only six ORs attending to play some football up top on what was another gloriously sunny day.

We are desperately hoping for a resurgence this year when we will be back to the original format and that we can carry this forward into the future. If we can't even get eleven players out once a year then unfortunately the day will become untenable and we may have to consider cancelling it as an event.

Please don't let this happen! If you are a keen cricketer or even if you aren't but fancy playing, you are more than welcome to come along. Please contact me at [patrickbovdell@hotmail.com](mailto:patrickbovdell@hotmail.com) or on 07968 824414 if you want to play or simply attend. Many thanks...

Pat Boydell

### **Rugby Reunion - Saturday 6th December 2010**

Well actually football!! - As the rugby was cancelled we just stayed indoors and played 5-a-side football. There were lots of scores and it somehow ended as an 18-18 tied game and went to a thrilling penalty shoot out. Adam Padmore was the captain of the winning side I believe!

Tommy Lait



Back row, left to right:

Chris Barefoot (2002-04), Dominic Sharman (1993-99), Criag Marcham (1989-96), Pat Boydell (1988-95), John Morgan (1988-95), Charles Yardley (1988-93), Alex Tennant-Bell (2004-09), Steve Brown (2004-09), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Paul Syzbiak (1999-2001)

Front Row: Tim Bates (1996-2003), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), Adam Padmore (1996-2001), Laurie Wilcox (2001-08), Richard Collins (2001-08)

### **Hockey - 26th March 2011**

On the 26th March 2011 the Old Rendcombian Society fielded two teams against the current school 1st and 2nd XIs. For a few years now the old boys have an unbeaten record and one that we are striving to keep. Fortunately, on the day we were blessed with fantastic weather and many former pupils turned out to play. As always the format was the same with the OR's 2nd XI, also known as the all stars, playing the first game. The all stars now seems to pick itself. Year in year out the same lads turn out to play and their commitment is really appreciated by the Society.

This year the 2nd XI beat the school 5 -1. As it is the same lads each year, it seems that the cohesion in the team gets stronger. Playing their famous diamond (ish) formation the lads were well drilled and were an exciting team to watch. In the team this year we had the uncompromising back line of Charles Hutton Potts, Rufus Blackwell, and Richard Collins. In the midfield playing the diamond formation were John and Pat Morgan, Ralph Aspin and Charles Yardley. They were a well organised unit and were passing the ball around

like they were still in the school 1st XI. Yardley, a school 4th XI player at his best, really stood his ground and should get picked for next year. Up front there were Ian Thompson, Dominic Sharman and Adam Padmore. The forwards, who were served with great service from the players behind, had the job of sticking the ball in the back of the net which they did with aplomb. Special mention must go to 'Paddy' who, on his first touch, undercut the ball into the corner of the net. All in all a fantastic effort.

A big thanks to James Stutchbury who every year commits to being the umpire. Without his help the game wouldn't happen so we thank James for that.

In the 1st XI match it was a much closer game. With some players playing two games fatigue was going to kick in and the fitter school 1st XI had a strong advantage. The team consisted of Charles Hutton Potts (again), Ben Crane, Phil Ellis, Toby Harris, Harley Phelps, James Daborn, Ian Forster and Ian Thompson. In the end the score finished 3-1 to the old boy's team so we kept the unbeaten record for another year. Special thanks go to Alex Brealy for organising the event and to Jane Gunner and Chris and Penny Wood who provided the players with refreshments and kept the tired legs going. Without these people the event would not go ahead and the tireless commitment of the Society helps these social events happen.

Many thanks to all who turned up and helped make it a great day.

Dominic Sharman



Back: Charles Hutton Potts (1976-83), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), Adam Padmore (1988-95), Rufus Blackwell (1988-93), Charles Yardley (1988-93), Ian Thompson (1988-95), John Morgan (1988-95)  
Front: Richard Collins (2001-08), Dominic Sharman (1993-99), Guest (pupil), Pat Morgan (1986-93)

### **Lacrosse - Saturday 26th March 2011**

Having recently won the National Small Schools' Championship the college team were a force to be reckoned with. They showed their prowess by beating the OR team 5-2. OR scorers were Koake Kumai and Bella (Ian Forster's girl friend back for a second year).

Jess Weston



Lucy Taylor, Aimee Schofield (2001-08), Jess Weston (1998-03), Tessa Couch (2001-08), Charlotte Jones, Jazz Barks (2001-09), Sinead Brennan (2001-09).  
Not in the photo, Koake Kumai (2004-09), Naomi Giles (2004-06) and Bella and some kind girls from the college who helped out.



### **Destination of 6A Leavers 2010**

	University / Destination	Degree
Frances Barker	Chester	Graphic Design
James Brittain	Swansea	Politics
Tim (Ariel) Chan	Kent	Accounting & Finance
Li Chen	UCL	Mechanical Engineering
Zhonghao (Bruce) Chen	Imperial College London	Physics
Kenny Childre	Returned to USA	
Rory Clark	RAC	Agriculture
Ieuan Clements	GAP	
Andrew (Shaun) Ellis	Working in theatre lighting	
Thomas Geerah	GAP	
Rory Gilling	Loughborough	Geography & Sports Science
Laura Graham	Nottingham	Art History
Jack Harris	Plymouth	Business Studies
Wei He	Manchester	Mathematics with Financial Mathematics
Natasha Heffron	Working	
Lawrence Huang	Canterbury Christ Church University	Business Management
Alexander Jones	Nottingham	Art History
Charlotte Jones	Newcastle	Chemical Engineering
Emily Jones	Swansea	Law
Chi (Maggie) Leong	UWE	Architectural Technology & Design
Chun (Kelly) Li	UWE	Accounting
Yuqi Liu	Leicester	Financial Mathematics
Siyang (Dorothy) Lu	UCL	Biochemistry
Sophie Musgrave	Oxford Brookes	Occupational Therapy
George Ord	Loughborough	History & English
Philipp Ortner	Oxford Brookes	History/International Relations
Alistair Read	GAP	
Lucy Taylor	Nottingham	Chemistry & Molecular Physics
Emily Tennant-Bell	GAP	
Edward Thomason	Gaining Sports Coaching qualifications and travelling	
En'zhao Yu	GAP	

## The Friends of Rendcomb College

Registered Charity No: 290373

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

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

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

An update from Colin Burden:

Nineteen Old Rendcombians are currently making regular contributions to The Friends in the form of covenants. This brings in about £2,500 annually. This year we have received one generous bequest and two generous donations bringing our income to about £4,500.

So far we have awarded nine scholarships. As our funds at the moment are limited, we can only fund awards on a short-term basis. During the last two years we have supported two pupils for one year so that they could complete their studies at the college.

In order to widen our support base, we will soon be writing to over one hundred Old Rendcombians who entered the college between 1940 and the mid 1970s on some form of scholarship (e.g. Gloucestershire Foundation) asking them if they might consider supporting The Friends. We believe that raising funds to provide scholarships to those who would not ordinarily have the opportunity of attending the college is the essence of Rendcomb and in line with Noel Will's wishes.

Our major fund raising activity for this year is a raffle, which will be drawn on the 28th of May – Founder's Day. Included in this mailing is a book of tickets and a list of the excellent prizes. These have been generously donated – many by Old Rendcombians – we are very grateful for their support. The proceeds of the ticket sales will go to The Friends. Please give us your support and if you would like more books or would like to make a one off gift or regular contribution please contact me on 01285 655240.

Present Trustees:		Appointed
Richard Wills	Chairman, Governor Rendcomb College	2004
Colin Burden	Executive Trustee, staff 1963-1997, former parent	2005
Jane Gunner (née Watson)	OR 1975-77, former parent, Hon. Sec. OR Society, Governor Rendcomb College	1994
Gerry Holden	Headmaster, Ex Officio	1999
Keith Winmill	OR 1972-79	2009
Mark Naylor	Commercial Operations Manager, Rendcomb College	2009
Dr. Tessa Hicks (née Wolferstan)	OR 1974-76, former parent	2010
Jessica Weston	OR 1998-2005, OR Committee Member	2010
Patrick Boydell	OR 1988-95, OR Vice-Chairman	2010