

Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



May 2014

40th ISSUE

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 30th June 2013 the following officers were elected:-

President:	Bill White (Staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, (Cheltenham), Glos. GL54 3JG Tel: 01451 860943
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-Chairman:	Jessica Weston (1998-2005)
Secretary:	Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: 01285 658627 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer:	Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff: 1976-2009) 5 Hynam Road, Pershore, WR10 3EB Tel: 01386 554409 e-mail: chriswood99@btinternet.com
School representative:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Tommy Lait (1996-2003) Patrick Boyddell (1988-95) Roland Martin (1982-89; HM: 2011-) Dominic Sharman (1993-99) Claire Germaine (1990-93) Harley Phelps (2002-2009)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) 29 Thornton Crescent, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DG Tel: 01296 582741 e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

**The Minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Old
Rendcombian Society held at Rendcomb College in Room E1
on Sunday 30th June 2013**

Present: Jane Gunner (1975-77), Colin Burden (Staff : 1966-97), Bill White (Staff: 1961-97), Chris Wood (1965-71, Staff: 1976-09), Richard Tudor (1973-80), Phil Griffiths (1940-43), Roland Martin (1982-1989; Headmaster: 2011-), Neil Lumby (1968-1973), Alex Brealy (1982-1987), Julian Comrie (1946-1959), David Williams (1966-1971), Joe Watson (1971-1978), Mike Naish (1952-1960), Des Knox (1970-1975)

1. Apologies: Pat Boydell (1988-1995), Harley Phelps (2002-2009), Michael Miles (1943-1950), Tony Rose (1965-1971), Jessica Weston (1998-2005)

2. The minutes of the 79th AGM held on Sunday 1st July 2012 were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising out of the Minutes held on 1st July 2012 There were no matters arising.

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

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

He drew the meeting's attention to the increased subscription level and the proceeds from sales of 173 A History of Rendcomb College in Photographs 1920-2011.

Newsletter costs were slightly elevated by the flyer about the book.

It was agreed that subscription should rise by £1.00/term from September 2014 allowing the college to give parents sufficient notice. This would make it £7.00/term. Proposed by Bill White, seconded by Alex Brealy, agreed unanimously.

It had previously been agreed that proceeds from the sale of Photo History were to be channelled into the Travel Bursary. With an underspend of £250.00 it was suggested it should increase to £1500.00 this year, this was proposed by Chris Wood, seconded by Jane Gunner and agreed unanimously.

Chris reported that no interest had been received from the Alliance and Leicester and he and David were looking into moving an account to Santander to see if a better return could be achieved.

It was hoped that those gaining from the Travel Bursary would perhaps keep up a live blog. They would be asked to sign a duplicate letter of terms and conditions.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Colin Burden and seconded by Alex Breal and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Chris Wood.

5. Nominations for Committee Members

The Secretary reported that Pat Boydell had decided to step down as Vice-Chairman but would be staying on the committee. The committee nomination was for Jess Weston (1998-2005) to become Vice-Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.

Stephen Jones (1988-1995) had decided to step down from the committee. The Chairman thanked all those who had worked so hard for the committee.

It was proposed by David Williams, seconded by Joe Watson that Roland Martin should be appointed to the committee. Agreed unanimously.

The committee undertook to review the society's rules to formalise whether the Headmaster should in future should be an additional ex-officio position.

6. Travel Bursary

Jane Gunner reported that this year's travel bursary had been split three ways. Awards had been given to two ORs as there had been no applications from current pupils and £250.00 had been reserved for a late application that had not in the end been made.

The successful applicants were: Harvey
Rich for research in Indonesia.

Jasmine Barks for training in lacrosse in Florida in the hope of continuing to be able to play lacrosse for Scotland.

7. Any other business

Colin Burden reported on the Friends of Rendcomb.

The new initiative to encourage donors set up with the first 100 becoming members of the 1920's Club, a name based on the year the college was founded, was going well, with an inaugural dinner having been held at the college the night before and very much enjoyed by all those who attended.

The benefit of the initiative was seeing income for the Friends increase from £7,000.00/annum to £10,000.00/annum. Colin encouraged people to use www.easyfundraising.org.uk when on-line shopping.

The Headmaster spoke of the challenging financial times and that Rendcomb numbers were holding up well. He explained that development plays a vital role in encouraging parents to choose a school. The science blocks were coming to the end of an upgrade that would see them meet the Gold Standard with teaching and practical areas separated. This upgrade had been supported by the Dulverton Trust and the Martin Wills Trust.

The college was also undertaking a feasibility study for a performing arts centre which would provide space to accommodate drama, music, lectures and careers.

The Chairman, Neil Lumby, expressed the Society's thanks to the Headmaster and the college.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.

81st Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the 81st Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 29th June 2014 at Rendcomb College at 12.15p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 80th A.G.M. held on 30th June 2013
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
 - (i) Pupil sponsorship for Edinburgh Festival see College news.
5. Nominations for committee members
All proposed and seconded nominations to reach Secretary by 20th June 2014
6. Travel Bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

Dates of Future Reunions and Sports Fixtures

Sunday 29th June 2014 timetable:

10.30 a.m.	Coffee in Clock Hall
11.00 a.m.	Service, St Peter's Church
11.15 a.m.	Cricket match
12 noon	Pay Bar
12.15 p.m.	AGM in Room E1
1.00 p.m.	Hot Lunch including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors. Main course to be collected from Servery for lunch in Reading Room. No charge: any donations to O.R. Society gratefully received. Staff retirement presentations.
2.30 p.m.	Cricket Match resumes on Top
4.30 p.m.	Tea in Pavilion

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

25 YEARS ON – Sunday 29th June 2014 Calling the leavers of 1989!!

Roland Martin (1982-89) is arranging a get together for all those who left in 1988, 89 and 90. If you have not already been contacted please get in touch with Roland on headmaster@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk

30 YEARS ON – Sunday 29th June 2014 Calling the leavers of 1984!!

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

Tag Rugby Tournament: Sunday 7th December 2014 (provisional)

Hockey: Saturday 21st March 2015 (provisional)

Cricket: Sunday 28th June 2015 (provisional)

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

SPORTS CONTACTS

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

College: Alex Brealy 01285 832314 (W) and 01285 832363 (H)
BrealyA@rendcomb.gloucs.sch.uk

Rugby: Tommy Lait, tommy_lait@yahoo.co.uk, **Harley** Phelps, harley.phelps@googlemail.com

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

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

Cricket: Pat Boydell, patrickb@tindirect.com

40th Newsletter

At the Old Rendcombian Society's A.G.M. in July 1974, it was agreed, somewhat tentatively, to send out an annual Old Rendcombian Newsletter as an experiment, following a request I had made at a Committee Meeting. In fact the Old Rendcombian subscription (£2.00) no longer covered the cost of sending out a copy of the Rendcomb Chronicle to all Old Rendcombians. It is amazing to me that this tentative experiment has not only lasted for 40 years but has steadily developed from its early form, typed on foolscap and run off messily on the Gestetner machine, to the splendid booklet with its colour photos and wide variety of material that we have today. Many people have been responsible for this, but today's Newsletter is largely the result of the hard work put in by **Jane Gunner** and her team, the Editor **Richard Tudor** and the Chairman **Neil Lumby** who is responsible for the printing. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Of course, the Newsletter would not exist if Old Rendcombians did not send in their news! That this supply steadily increases shows how much Old Rendcombians appreciate the Newsletter. Please continue to write in with your news! The Newsletter depends on you! **Bill White**

From the Headmaster

There are a number of ways of keeping in touch with Rendcomb and I hope that many Old Rendcombians will wish to engage with their *alma mater*. As you may remember, our website was redesigned and re-launched in 2012 and can be found at <http://www.rendcombcollege.org.uk/>. The news pages may be of particular interest to ORs as they tend to focus on pupil achievements and life at the School. If you have never read Noel Wills' article for *The English Review* (1924) outlining his thoughts on 'the experiment' that was the School he founded, it makes fascinating reading and can be found from the 'Foundation' page.

In addition, we regularly use Twitter and I would encourage ORs to follow @Rendcomb to keep up to date with Rendcomb news. Our follower base has grown tremendously from thirty to over a thousand in two years and we try to make the feeds interesting! We are developing sub-accounts (@Rendcombcareers and @Rendcombsports) which might appeal to some ORs.

OR REUNION – 30th June 2013
30 years on



Back row: Eric Blencowe, Steve Hazell, Giles Brealy, Ted Wilcox, Calum Dewar
Third row: Charles Hutton-Potts, Sîan Smith (née Alexander), Benj Freeman, Richard Deacon.

Second Row: Lisa Brock (née Lake) Kennedy Taylor, Russell Copley, Simon Powell, Richard Smith.

Front row: Matt Archer, Nikki Tinto, Mandy De Hennin (née Winter), Tamsin Wallace (née Morgan).

Present but not in photo: Simon Beales, Nikki Scott (née Morgan)

Thanks to the combined efforts of Russ Copley and Charles Hutton-Potts, twenty of 1983 leavers returned for the Summer Reunion 2013, thirty years on. They commenced their celebrations with a Saturday night drink and dinner at the Bathurst and reconvened at the College on the Sunday. After a drink and lunch, there was the guided tour in



the glorious sunshine to see refurbished science block and a subsequent visit to the Old Rectory had them reeling at the lifestyle of pupils today. The afternoon ended with tea and éclairs Up Top.

OR ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 9th December 2013



Sue Webb (OR parent), Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-), Gill Day (OR Music Staff), Ralph Barnes (1991-98), Mark Gunner (2001-2008), Julia Morris Gemma Thomasin-Foster (1993-1999) Sophie Baltrop (2003-03), Phil Webb (1992-99), Saul, Edward Slark (2001-2011), Charlotte Cumberpatch (1998-2005), David White (Staff: 1989-2004), Louisa Bongiovanni (1997-99), Laurie Wilcox (2001-2008), Naomi Gibbons (1995-97, OR music staff), Peter Liang (1998-2005), Roland Martin (1982-89; Headmaster: 2011-)

Also taking part but not in the picture: Gordon Webb (OR parent) and Dominic Franks (College music director)

The OR Advent service was held at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 8th December 2013. It was once again a great success with ORs, staff and past parents in the choir providing a wide breadth of music for the packed congregation. The choir sang Palestrina 's *Matin Responsory, This is the truth sent from above*, the Vaughan Williams traditional arrangement, Stainer's *How beautiful upon the mountains, People look East*, Meirion Wynn Jones arrangement, Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin*, Handel's *And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed* and Goss's *God so loved the world*. The

collection was in aid of the St Peter's Church funds and the Society would like to thank the College Chaplin, Rev Godfrey Simpson and the Church Wardens for their enthusiastic support of the event. Thanks must go as ever to **David White** (Staff: 1989-2004) for putting it all together and to **Claire Germaine** (1990-93), who despite ill health has continued to be a driving force behind it. It is hoped that there will another OR Advent Service in 2015.



Choir practice in the Reading Room.

CONGRATULATIONS

Frances Baker (2008-10) 1st Class Hons. Graphic Design, Chester

Joseph Drysdale (2003-05) BSc (1st) Adult Nursing, Oxford

Brookes **Laura Graham** (2000-10) 1st Class Hons., Art History , Nottingham University.

Mark Gunner (2001-08) 1st Class Hons Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Leeds University

Alexander Jones (2005-10) 1st Class Hons., Art History , Nottingham University.

Fiona Trumper (2000-09) 1st Class Hons, Textiles at Cardiff

Metropolitan **Rachel Watson** (2003-09) MSc (Distinction) in Risk and Environmental Hazards at Durham University

Peter Binks (1935-41) had his 90th birthday in June 2013

Tony Partridge (Staff 1973-2000) was 90 in June 2013

BIRTHS

To Jodee and **Rupert Webb** (1991-98) a son, Monty William, January 2014.

To Hannah and **Patrick Boydell** (1988-95) a daughter, Layla, April 2013 To **Suzanne** (née **Denley**) (1988-90) and Timothy **Dixon** a son, Thomas Albert, April 2013

To Samantha Ellingford and **Tommy Lait** (1996-2003) a son, Archie William Ellingford-Lait, April 2013.

MARRIAGES

Suzanne Denley (1988-90) to Timothy Dixon on 28th December 2012 in Aylesbury and the celebrations were held at Hartwell House

Neil Lumby (1968-73) to Anne Kathleen Buxton in February 2014. Anne is a thoroughbred horse trainer in Ocala, Florida.

Richard Moss (1982-1986) to Dominique Wilson on 25th May 2013 at St Mary's Church, Crosthwaite, Cumbria.



Heather Roper (1998-2005) to Paul Davies, 8th June 2013 at Old Radnor.



Jess Weston (1998-2005), Claire Taylor (2000-2005), Sophie Barltrop (2000-2003), Charlotte Cumberpatch (2000-2005), Heather Roper (1998-2005), Caroline Wells (2001-2005), Edwina Wickham (1998-2003), Harriet Kingsford (1999-2004)

Hannah Bishop (2001-2005) to Callum Donald-McMahon in January 2014 at St Peter's Church, Rendcomb.



OBITUARIES

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

Roland Templeman Wood (1939-46) died on 12th December 2012 aged 85. His wife, Jan, wrote that he always had very fond memories of his time at Rendcomb and of the staff who taught him.

Kenneth J Hanney (1941-1950) died on 2nd July 2013 following a short illness aged 82. His son, Richard, wrote that he always remembered his Rendcomb days with much pride and affection.

Michael Butler's (1941-1947) death was reported in the 2013 Newsletter. His wife Hazel gives below some details of Michael's life.

Born 6th September 1928, died 28th February

2013. 1942-1947 – Rendcomb College

1947-1949 – National Service

1953 – University of London (B.Sc., (Botany)

1959 – Reading University Ph.D., (Microbiology)

1959-1966 – The Wellcome Research Laboratories,
Beckenham (Dept. Virology)

1966 – University of Surrey , Lecturer, Senior Lecturer then Reader
in Virology until retirement in 1987.

Michael married in 1958 and there are three sons. Once retired he showed great interest in politics, gardening (especially soft fruits), architecture and showed great skill in restoring antique furniture. He always maintained this came from his woodworking lessons at Rendcomb!

Roy Dennis (Staff 1959-82) died in January 2014. Among those who attended the funeral were Roger Medill , (Headmaster:1971-1978), John Willson, (Staff: 1967-1988), Colin Burden, (Staff : 1966-1997), Executive Trustee of the Friends of Rendcomb, Roland Martin, (1982-1889, Headmaster: 2011 –), representing the Governors of Rendcomb College and Rendcomb College, Chris Wood (1965-71, Staff: 1976-2009) Jane Gunner (née Watson) (1975-1977), Honorary Secretary



OR Society, Governor, representing the OR Society, Pete Cairns, (Present staff, representing Rendcomb College), Esther Morgan, Margaret Knapp, (Staff: 1960-1990), Charlotte and John Holdaway, (Staff: 1970-1994), Roy Edwards (1972-1979), Nick Hance (1966-1973), David Griffiths (1956-1964), Bill White, (Staff : 1961-1997), President of the Old Rendcombian Society, Representing the Old Rendcombian Society.

Among those wishing to be represented were: Jon Hiscox (1960-1967) and Sue Hiscox (née Pressland), Mike James (1968-1975), Denis and Mary Price (Staff: 1969-1990), Nick Smith (1971-1975), David (Bean) Beanland (1974-1979), Nigel Pitt (1975-1982), Keith Winnill (1972-1979), Professor David Mabberley (1959-1966), Ron & Joyce Kelsey (Staff: 1969-1995), Tony Partridge (Staff: 1973-2000), Peter Trier (1958-1965), Mark Whittering (1956-1961), Julian Gray (1964-71), Hamish Wilson (1971-78), Christopher Hart (1970-77), Mr and Mrs David Hawkeswell and family (Staff: 1973-93), Trevor Patrick (1964-70), Anne Holt (Staff: 1968-96), Robin Bowen (1963-70), Des Knox (1970-75), Paul Rose (1968-1975), Joe Watson (1971-1978), Nigel Green (1961-69).

Bill White gave the following eulogy:

We have come here today to remember and give thanks for Roy's long life. I much appreciate being asked to say a few words about Roy who was a firm friend at Rendcomb College. I am grateful to Roger and Ian for providing details of Roy's earlier life. Our sincere condolences go out to them and their families.

Roy was born in Gloucester in 1922. His family then moved to Lydney where he first attracted the attention, allegedly, of his future wife, Mary, by throwing stones at her near her Grandfather's farm. They both attended Lydney Grammar School where they became talented athletes, being Victor and Victrix Ludorum in 1940. Roy had also become a King's Scout. Roy went to Loughborough College and was called up into the RAF in 1942 as a R.D.F. mechanic- a cover name for RADAR. After various postings in England, Roy landed at Arromanches in September 1944. Moving up through France and into Belgium, his unit reached the Ardennes Forest just where the Germans made one of their main thrusts in the



Battle of the Bulge. Amazingly, Roy managed to get a letter home past the censors addressed to Mr & Mrs A.R. DENNES.

Roy was demobbed in 1946 and married Mary on Boxing Day. Roy took up a post at Sir Thomas Rich's School and Roger was born in 1947. In 1951

Roy applied for a job at the new Victoria College in Egypt. On arrival he found that the workshop had not been built and he was asked to teach Maths and Physics which he was glad to do as he had a good grasp of the subjects. Later in the year, Mary, Roger and newly born Ian arrived to join him. In 1956 as Mary's father was ill, Mary, Roger and Ian returned home; Roy followed in July with friends by car across Africa to Tripoli, through Italy and on to the U.K. Roy returned in September wondering what he would find. In November all teachers were told to leave the country at once. Roy took two suitcases but had to leave wedding presents, sports trophies etc. and all their possessions. In January 1957 he got a job at Rishworth School in Yorkshire. They had an unfurnished cottage, with spring water that turned brown and gas lighting downstairs only. After a short spell at King's School

Sherborne near Northleach, he came to Rendcomb College in 1959 where he was to spend 23 happy and fulfilling years. On the way he had completed an external degree in mathematics.

Roy's patient and thorough teaching of Maths and Physics was much appreciated, perhaps especially by less proficient pupils. We have had quite a number of phone calls and letters emphasizing this – I even had one from New Zealand. This illustrates the high regard in which Roy was held.

Among pupils he acquired the nickname Buzz: origin obscure. Roy's slow, measured walking pace indicated his patient approach to teaching and to life but he could be nippy on the hockey field as I found when we played for Bourton-on-the-Water. I remember one day some pupils told me that Mr Dennis had got really annoyed in their lesson; they were amazed - it was so out of character.

Roy's practical abilities were put to use running Public Works Scheme and the Motor Club. His sporting talent saw him coaching the U15 Cricket team and U15 Hockey until he took over 1st X1. He was also involved with the Gloucestershire Schools Hockey. In the 60s Mary and Roy took up golf; Mary becoming Ladies Captain. Roy and I attended a Bridge course at the golf club which led to the start of the School Bridge Club and to our playing regularly with a couple from near Cirencester for 20 years.

Roy was one of those invaluable schoolmasters who did not seek the limelight but just got on with the job efficiently and without fuss. He was devoted to his family - I remember seeing him helping Ian building early pheasant pens - and was devastated by Mary's death 7 years ago. He was

able to continue living at Colesbourne with help from family and carers until last December. Carole and Esther used to take him to the Lunch Club in Rendcomb Village Hall and Esther took him to the OR Summer Reunion two years ago. I remember Roy said to me on my last visit to him, "I've been lucky: I've had a good life." That I think is a fitting ending.

Roy's son, Roger, writes to express his gratitude to all those who contacted the family or directly or through the Old Rendcombian Society: That the chapel was so full of those from the College, representing many others as well, was immensely pleasing. We are deeply grateful that so many wished to be there. I recognised only **Bill White** and **Margaret Knapp**, so was surprised at whom the other faces turned out to be. For an omission of acknowledgement, I humbly apologise, as I didn't get a chance to greet each individually, particularly Roger Medill, as I don't believe we ever met during his term as H.M., which included permission for our Wedding Reception to be held in Big School and out on the terrace. This is recalled with particular pleasure by my wife - every time we drive past - not the wedding itself, just the most attractive location for the Reception!

Now given pause for thought, I can recall teachers - only a few - where I might wonder if anybody would have good memories of them. It has been of immense comfort to know that Dad was not one of those. It has recently occurred to me that - alone of all occupations / vocations / etc. - a teacher can leave a huge legacy amongst those who he / she taught.

At the time I left home, in 1968, it was more time than I, or my parents had ever spent anywhere. I had attended five schools before I was eleven! For my part, Rendcomb and its environs continue to supply me with the best of memories - even including Mr. Telling conveying to Dad how he didn't appreciate Mick Swaine and I kicking out mole traps from the lawn above the swimming pool. Still, we did leave a legacy, carved into the lead under the Stable Tower cupola!! For Mum and Dad, I know the 23 years were their happiest and, but for a curious retirement age of 60, he would have been more than happy to continue. That alone is a measure of what Rendcomb meant to him.

I've had a delightful letter, once it was graphologically deciphered, from **David Mabberley** (1959-66) in N.S.W. I haven't the time to search for my 1962 diary, but I am accused of uttering some improbable Anglo-Saxon, when confronted by a giant snowball, with which he and a **Jeff Harris** (1959-67) had blocked our toboggan run. As he and Dad both started in

1959, he may be able to furnish the origins of “Buzz”! I can also correct an apparent impression that the boys then had, namely that Dad had had some hush-hush role in Suez. I can't think why they'd even have thought that, so



it's most interesting to learn new things concerning a parent. I've found a photo in one of the Rendcomb books, alongside the afore-mentioned Harris, but cannot recall either of them.

Not so the boy next to him, one **McKeown** (1961-63) - who I do remember well. With the only teachers' children being Angela & Michael Swaine, Rosemary & Judith Fell, Ian and me, it was obviously far easier for the boys to remember us, rather than

we them! I include some photos of Rendcomb as it was taken by Chris Swaine's son, Michael. An interval of some 40 years passed before I saw them for the very first time despite being there at the time of those taken from the Stable Tower. The face of Rendcomb has changed so much and as, in the three books I have seen no equivalent of these, I feel his efforts deserve a wider audience.



Robert Mann, (1995-98). He came to Rendcomb from The Elms. Many locally will remember him fondly for his involvement with Giffords Circus. Rob married two years ago. He was diagnosed with cancer very soon after. He leaves a widow and a baby daughter.

Edward John Powell (1934-41) died 16th September 2013

Colin Hitchcock (1971-78) died suddenly in September 2013. Among those who attended the funeral from his year group were:

Jade Sinclair, Hamish Wilson, Deborah Harrison, Penny Jones, Anthony Flambard, Andrew MacKonochie. Gray Moore, Gerry Hedderwick, Joe Watson, Jon McGill, Dave Pitt, Simon Buist.

Bill White (President), Jane Gunner (Honorary Secretary), Colin Burden (Staff: 1966-97, former woodwork teacher) represented the Society including the following from his year group: Charlotte Bonardi, Danielle Shrimpton, Treve Evans, Shane Galtress, Will Gotley, Tim Parfitt, Ian Pengelly, Sheila Greenfield, Sarah Morris, Nigel Taylor and from the committee: Neil Lumby (Chairman), Chris Wood (Treasurer and former teacher), Richard Tudor (Newsletter editor) and from Rendcomb College: Rupert Lane (Chairman of the Governors), Roland Martin (Headmaster 2011- , OR 1982-89).

The following eulogy was given at his funeral by a lay reader who was a friend of the family:



Colin was born on 12th September, 1960 at St John's Farm, Dauntsey. He was the youngest of five children to Bob and Peggy Hitchcock with brothers Robert, Peter and Alan and sister Mary. Mary was eleven when Colin arrived and remembers what a joy it was to have a new baby brother. She and her brothers played with him for hours on the farm where they all grew up.

Colin was a bright boy, he attended the local village primary school and then at the age of eleven, he became a full time boarder at Rendcomb College, near Cirencester, coming home to the farm for holidays and exeat weekends.

At Rendcomb, Colin spent much of his free time in the woodwork room. He also enjoyed photography and made a radio and his first computer. At 'A' level, Colin studied Maths, Physics and Chemistry. He then went on to

Reading University where he studied Electronic and Electrical Engineering graduating with an Honours Degree in 1981.

On leaving University, Colin was offered a job with a company called Miles 33 based in Bracknell. He liked his job so much he remained with the company for all of his working life. As Colin's boss said recently, Colin was very much a creature of habit, borne out, I guess, by the fact that he spent over 30 years with us at Miles 33. He very much had a set routine and way of doing things.

General working hours at Miles 33 are from 9 to 5:30 pm but Colin always arrived just before 10 and left just before 7. His logic, which none of us really disagreed with, was that it took him 15 minutes to get to work for 10 am but an hour to be there for 9 and so it was more sensible to arrive at 10. For a period of time we had a major project on at work and Colin was part of the team working on the project. We insisted that everybody was in by 9:30 so that the team could review progress on a daily basis. Colin showed up every day at 9:30 but as soon as the project finished his arrival at the office started to drift back to 10 within a very short time frame.

Colin wore the same type of jumper, trousers, shirt and hairstyle for the 30 plus years that we have known him, so to guess his age was impossible. Two of his colleagues were reminiscing recently, after news of his death, that if you compared a photograph of him on his start date with us and then further ones from 10 and 20 years ago there would be little difference! He did not have any grey hair and never seemed to put on or lose weight.

One of his female colleagues, who had a desk next to him for many years, recalls how he used to have a liking for cheese and raw onion sandwiches. Lunch was always the same, two packs of sandwiches and a bag of crisps. Mind you on the other side of her she had Malcolm who had a bag of lettuce leaves and numerous granny smith apples all washed in fairy liquid: so Colin was the 'normal' one of the two!

Then there was the fact that in all the times I sat next to him, she said, and made him a coffee, he never made me one. Just checked with Gareth and some of his other colleagues and it was the same throughout: that if someone made him one he would drink it but he never did the tea round. If no one made him a coffee he would drink Coke!

Habits aside, Colin was a well thought of, intelligent and capable individual who made a significant contribution to Miles 33. He joined us as a hardware engineer back in the early 80s and spent the first 10 years of his time with us designing and building computers that we sold to the publishing and legal industries. He would spend many an hour locked away in what was the basement of the offices with screwdrivers, soldering irons and a variety of computer chips assembling machines in black metal cases that were shipped and installed all around the world.

The Dr Frankenstein of Miles 33. With the advent of mass market computers Miles 33 followed the same path as many other computer systems suppliers in stopping building our own hardware and starting to sell off-the-shelf hardware from the high street. Colin's traditional role no longer existed; so he had to reinvent himself, which he did by transferring his skills from hardware to software. Colin started off by writing software to control output to printers and then, finding out that he had a talent for software development, broadened out, delivering mission critical pieces of software for Miles 33 including software to import press wire feeds and to move pictures, pages, advertisements and other publishing content from publishers to their printing centres all around the world.

Colin was a quiet, intelligent, unassuming, capable and valuable individual who got on with his job professionally and competently with little fuss, delivering a guaranteed end result every time. He will be sadly missed by his colleagues and friends at Miles 33.

In his spare time Colin enjoyed real ale as well as brewing his own at home. He would meet up with his friend George at the local pub for a pint or two. Some years ago Colin and a friend did discos for weddings and parties, Colin taking on the technical side, with the friend as DJ.

Colin also used to play badminton and in more recent times he returned to his love of woodworking. His woodworking skills were exceptional and his home was full of furniture he had made. The family's Christmas presents of late were lovely wooden bowls, pots and candlesticks. He made a drinks table for his niece and recently, for his sister, he made a clock and barometer set in wood. All the things he made with great care and an excellent eye for detail. He spent many hours in the log cabin, which he built from a kit in his garden to house all his woodworking machinery.

His home was also full of books, lots of novels, of which we are sure, he had read every one, and so many computer books. Colin of course kept up to date with all the latest technology. He bought himself a Kindle in May of

this year and I understand it has 29 computer books downloaded onto it. He also had a great deal of computer equipment that he had obviously collected and used over the years.

It was through the computer that Colin met his friend Erica. Several years ago Erica posted a computer question on the Internet and sure enough Colin replied with the answer. They became good friends and just a few weeks ago spent an evening together at the cinema. He also enjoyed photography and walking. His most recent holiday in July was spent walking in South Devon.

Colin kept in touch with his friends from school days at Rendcomb College. As an Old Rendcombian he attended their AGM and with his amazing computer knowledge he built their website and kept everyone informed of forthcoming events. He would send a friendly reply to any questions or enquiry sent to the website and published online the Old Rendcombian newsletters and photographs that previous students send to him. In preparing for today I read a few of the many comments on the website. One read "Good to learn from the Old Rendcombian magazine that

someone took it upon themselves to sacrifice so much time to set the website ball rolling. Well done Colin; a really great effort that is, judging by the other comments in the book to date".

Another wrote "I was pleased to see such an excellent site for Rendcomb, Colin - great site, full of nostalgia".

Great work on the website Colin!

Wow! What a fantastic site: Well done Colin. I could go on!

Colin also shared a love for steam engines with his brother Robert. They would go for days out together to local steam rallies. Colin also built several working replica models of steam traction engines.

Colin had a good life and often returned to the farm where he grew up, to visit his Mum and brother Robert. He really enjoyed spending time with his extended family at holiday time and on family occasions. As his sister Mary said, "We are all totally shocked at his unexpected sudden departure but he will never be forgotten. He has left us so many memories. We have lost a very talented son and brother but to me he will always be 'my little brother'.

Jade Sinclair (1971-78) writes of Colin:

Rendcomb pupils have a curious habit of influencing those about them in whatever walk of life they take. They influence their class-mates and usually some of those in the years immediately above and below. They normally

continue to take the approach and attitudes developed at Rendcomb and surprise others. In a few cases some continue to develop the bond with the school and the pupils past and present well beyond their leaving date as members of staff or within the OR Society. I frequently see a quizzical look when I say that I'm going to a reunion or to visit an old friend from school. Non-Rendcombians ask 'why?' If you were there you know, if you weren't there, I can't explain.

As with everything else, Colin did things in his own, quiet way.

While he was there he was well known for his woodwork and his

photography, nothing flash just very good. He should also be remembered for his rugby, as a prop he brought ridiculous amounts of physical strength and graft to the pitch. He probably never got 'man of the match' though he had a huge impact, particularly in the tackle. In Hockey you could sometimes go round him, but never through. Personally I remember him being the first person to take me onto a squash court. He introduced Sheila Greenfield and Sarah Morris amongst others to the world of photography and took the iconic picture of Treve Evans in two parts. Everything he did was solid and he was always self-effacing about his achievements.

Colin managed, in his quiet and unassuming way, to have an influence far beyond his years as a pupil with his development of the OR's website and tracking people down and organising reunions. One only needs to look at the turnouts for reunions on the website to see the level of his work and success with the 'class of 78'. Just one of Colin's hundreds of photographs but it tells dozens of stories. Even his captions on the website played-down his achievements; the largest gathering to date with Colin (typically) right at the back.

Because of Colin's work for just that day Tony Flambard and Penny Jones are now married. An occasional network of clandestine timber transfers has taken place in numerous car-parks. He managed to get people from all over the UK, and Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Dubai and I'm not sure where else to turn up. He managed to reunite people and re-establish bonds that in many cases been dormant for decades. Since then many of those he brought back together have stayed in regular touch and long may it continue. He managed to drag me personally out of self-imposed hibernation; I owe him so much. I think many of us from years past, present, and yet to come should be thankful for Colin.

In his own very distinctive, quiet way he still continues to have an influence. With any luck many of the class of 78 will reassemble this summer to refresh the friendships non-ORs can't understand, perhaps plant a tree or two, and raise a glass to Colin.

As ever contributions to tree-planting or any other form of memorial or support for the school should be sent to Colin Burden.

Sheila Lee (née Greenfield, 1976-78) writes:

Though at the time I never really appreciated it, I was so lucky to have known Colin during my time at Rendcomb. There is an Irish word, a *Mai-feiner*, for someone who is selfish and arrogant - into themselves. Well Colin was the total opposite of a *Mai-feiner*. He was consistently patient, kind, thoughtful and open hearted. He had endless patience whilst attempting to teach me photography - malheureusement he had a very bad pupil. It was Colin who got the year of 78 back together again, I'm sure our 30 year reunion would not have been such a huge success without him. Thank you Colin for being such a good friend. Only the good die young!

MEMORIES

Professor Joe Smedley who taught at the College in the fifties and lived in the Old Rectory had the scullery (laundry) and a large room to the right on the ground floor of the Old Rectory or House as it was called in those days. Joe described a high window in the scullery which when he climbed up to look through revealed a room beyond which had a Georgian tea set all laid out. It remained a mystery to him for 60 years because he could not find a way in to the room and had no explanation for it.

When his friend Ruth Hughes wrote to me about this puzzle, I passed the query on. My first port of call was Bill White and subsequently Colin Burden both of whom taught at the College during the 60s. Neither of them could recall any such room and both were inclined to be sceptical that such a room existed. However Amanda Brealy who is mentioned in the newsletter as my saviour on many occasions, is housemistress at the Old Rectory and took up the challenge.

Some of her first year boys had no prep one evening so they spent a happy time knocking on walls and checking the cellars. They had a wonderful time and decided they had located the blocked up window on the scullery side (now the laundry) and it could well have looked through into what is now a kitchenette with an access from the other side but there was no obvious explanation for why Joe could not have got into it. The boys were keen to drill holes and investigate further but Amanda took a safer route and talked to the works manager, Pete Cairns who knew about the room and agreed as to its location. He thinks it was something done in Victorian times. There is a void and they painted the room with a *trompe l'oeil* to make it longer. A

doll's table was put in the void and the Georgian tea set was laid out on it. The window was then put in.

It was removed in 1967 and sold off to help pay for the housemaster's house to be built and the void was bricked up. So there never was a proper entrance to it.

The boys were so pleased that the mystery is solved but also disappointed they didn't find any treasure. Joe too was delighted that there was an explanation but so far I have discovered no one else who knew of it. If any one else can remember seeing the room and the tea set, we would be delighted to hear from them. **Jane Gunner**

Jenny Moody, daughter of **Charles Honeybone** (1924-31), contacted the College because she had some books awarded to her late father by the Governors in March 1931. The books were signed by H. Sewell, Chairman and J. H Simpson Headmaster. We have no previous knowledge that books were given in this way and wonder if anyone could shed any light on it. Below is a record of an athletics fixture held on 21 March 1931.

PREVIOUS RESULTS.			
1930	Winstanley 27 points	Bedford 27 points	Bedford 27 points
1931	Bedford 27 points	Winstanley 27 points	Bedford 27 points

ATHLETIC SPORTS			
BETWEEN			
Bedford Grammar School			
AND			
Randcomb College			
HELD AT			
RENDOMBS			
SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 1931.			

ORDER OF EVENTS.			
Event	Bedford	Randcomb	Result
1. Quarter Mile, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
2. Quarter Mile, Junior ...	R. E. Rogers	R. E. Rogers	1
3. Three-quarter Mile, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
4. 100 Yards, Junior ...	R. E. Rogers	R. E. Rogers	1
5. 100 Yards, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
6. Three-quarter Mile, Junior ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
7. Half a Mile, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
8. Mile ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
9. Half a Mile, Junior ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
10. Last Jump, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
11. Relay Race, Open ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
12. Relay Race, Junior ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1
13. Tag & Hit ...	H. E. Baker	H. E. Baker	1

RESULT IN POINTS.			
Event	Bedford	Randcomb	Result
1. Quarter Mile, Open ...	2	1	1
2. Quarter Mile, Junior ...	2	1	1
3. Three-quarter Mile, Open ...	2	1	1
4. 100 Yards, Junior ...	2	1	1
5. 100 Yards, Open ...	2	1	1
6. Three-quarter Mile, Junior ...	2	1	1
7. Half a Mile, Open ...	2	1	1
8. Mile ...	2	1	1
9. Half a Mile, Junior ...	2	1	1
10. Last Jump, Open ...	2	1	1
11. Relay Race, Open ...	2	1	1
12. Relay Race, Junior ...	2	1	1
13. Tag & Hit ...	2	1	1
Total	18	17	1

COINCIDENCES

The late Admiral Sir Richard Pilkington Clayton G.C.B., (1925-84), Chairman elect of the governors 1984, who was killed in a motor cycling accident in September 1984



Last summer I received an e-mail from a gentleman in Australia, who had bought the late Admiral's ceremonial sword. As a result he had researched Sir Richard's history and was keen to have as much information about his life as he could. Despite all his efforts he had been unable to find a picture of him in full ceremonial dress and appealed to the College and subsequently to the OR Society for one.

With his encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Rendcomb, Bill White was able to find one in the 1985 Rendcombian, which we duly scanned in and sent to him. Job done, one satisfied customer! Then just before Christmas, the College received another enquiry from a gentleman who had recently been awarded the Légion d'Honneur and had served with the Admiral as midshipman on HMS Brighton before the War. He too wanted a picture of his late friend in full ceremonial dress having thus far been unable to find one. Of course we were happy to oblige.

Jane Gunner

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS

Nigel Pitt (1975-82) has recently taken up the post of Head of Mathematics at the State University of Maine, USA. He is married with four children. **Chris Jones** (1966-73) writes:

After Rendcomb I took Business Studies, which led me into the world of HR Management. In my early career I was fortunate to work in organisations going through significant changes, and those experiences gave me transferable skills, which I have been able to use in senior HR roles in major organisations. Currently I am in the automotive industry in a European role although I also have oversight for India and support China! As an antidote to the pressures of corporate life I developed a parallel life, following an interest in many things rural. We now own a few acres and rent a further few, in mid Bedfordshire. We have sheep, pigs, geese, poultry, cows, horses, heavy horses (Suffolk Punches), rusting equipment, household pets, 3 sons (I married Christine in 1980) and lots of half-finished projects.

Competing for my time, apart from the animals and the land, are a range of activities, interests and family commitments, which include supporting our Young Farmers club (I am President of the Woburn and District YFC), attending various “country” type shows, membership of several breed and special interest groups and societies, collecting vintage agricultural equipment to use with our Suffolk Punch horses and vintage tractors, helping family, friends and neighbours and going to the day job to fund all of the above.

Chris Hart (1970-77) left Knight Frank four years ago to set up his own business with a friend. He has now a team of nine and some good clients. Essentially, they look after their clients’ property requirements across the board; these involve large complex and valuable properties in London and elsewhere. He said they seem to have found a niche in the market for which there is a demand but very little supply. Because of the growing business, he has had to leave Bath and move to Wimbledon. One of his sons starts with Deloitte in London as a trainee accountant in September; they are delighted as such positions are like gold dust. Their other son has an important role for a small charity in Sierra Leone. They visited him at Christmas, but found it not for tourists! They also visited **Ian Underdown** (1970-75) a few years ago; he is “phenomenally successful” in Canada.

Rachel Watson (2003-2009) . Having completed her MSc at Durham, Rachel is about to start on the PwC Management Consultancy graduate scheme based in London.

Alice Hughes (1995-2003) now works as an Associate Professor for the Chinese Academy of Sciences, at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden. She started as an Assistant Professor in early September last year (after spending the summer as a research mentor for the Organisation of Tropical Studies, on their Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience program), but became an Associate Professor at the annual review at the beginning of the year (though the results were only recently released). Her work focuses on looking at how environmental change drives changes in biodiversity, to help design to most robust conservation plans. **Martin Griffiths** (Staff: 1982-2003) wrote to Jane at Christmas. He spent much of 2012 in Athens where he had been teaching English and TOK. He drove back from Greece and called in on **Paul Sykes** (Staff: 1982-2003) in France where he helped to chop loads of firewood for the winter. In September 2013 he took up a year long post in Switzerland teaching 'A' Level Art and English literature, calling on his experience of drama during **John Tolpuitt's** (Headmaster: 1987-99) time. He has also produced the end of term staff act, which helped to remind him of the spectacular Fashion Show held at Rendcomb in 1999.

Simon Hett (1984-91) is married with two children and is teaching Science at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, Brighton. **Kim and Chrissa Taplin** (Staff: 1997-2001). It has been announced that Rev'd Kim Taplin, Chaplain at Clifton College has been appointed Vicar at All Saints, Clifton. The date of his installation and licensing will be 9th July.

Richard Dunwoody (1975-1981) was recently featured in the Saturday Telegraph's 'My perfect weekend' where he described how he spends a lot of his time leading adventure holidays for Wild Frontiers. Places visited include Mongolia and Afghanistan. He has also become a professional photographer after studying at the Speos Photography School in Paris.

He spoke of being in the school dark room from the age of 12 developing his black and white photos. He recently put together his first exhibition of horse photographs for the Brooke charity, a charity caring for working horses worldwide. The exhibition was at Gallery in the Crypt, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London.

He and his partner Olivia very much enjoy Spain and regularly visit the area near the Los Alcornocales National Park in the southwest.

Charlotte Ellis (1999-2004) intends to take part in the 2014 Ladies Access Series now that she is a professional golfer. There will be as many as fifteen events in more than 10 countries from May through to October. Six events will be in Scandinavia. Charlotte plans to defend her Rochampton Gold Cup title in April before embarking on her European schedule.

The top five ranked players are awarded full membership of the Ladies European Tour for 2015 and we wish Charlotte well in this endeavour. **Adam Binder** (1982-1987) has had a busy year exhibiting locally at the Cotswold Show in Cirencester and at the 11th Quenington Sculpture Exhibition, Fresh Air where his magnificent swan in patinated bronze was situated overlooking the river.

Exhibitions for this year are the Spring Exhibition, Drang Gallery, Salcombe and Padstow and Art in the Garden, West Langton Manor, Wiltshire in June. **Miles Brown** (1990-1995) is married and living in Melbourne. He has a 6 year old son.

Steven Lea (Staff: 1988-97) is now teaching at Sunningdale Prep School in Berkshire but is based in Gloucester.

Tim and Sally Dyke (Staff: 1976-81) wrote to Bill at Christmas saying that after 32 years at Blundell's, Tim has finally retired. Not before, however, the Blundell's team he had coached won the ESU's speaking competition at Goodenough college in London at which Tim won a special Lifetime Award.

Robert Cockrell (1952-59) wrote to Bill in March 2013. He has retired from private practice, where he specialized in criminal law and acted as a Deputy District Judge in the Magistrates Court. He now enjoys golf, bridge and treading the boards at the Swan Theatre in Worcester.

Chris Terrill (Staff: 1978-83) has written a number of articles recently about the effects of battle on servicemen, following the case of Sgt Blackman, the Royal Marine convicted of killing a wounded Taliban insurgent in Afghanistan. In an interview with Sgt Blackman's wife, published in the Daily Telegraph in December 2013, Chris writes that the effects on everyone concerned with the case have been extensive.

Sgt Blackman was convicted of shooting a man who had been wounded and captured after a patrol in Helmand, where Chris spent some time as an embedded journalist with the Royal Marines, having passed their rigorous training course. Mrs Blackman has received huge support from members of the public, who have felt that the life sentence was disproportionate.

The point that Chris makes is that living with the dangers of battle for so long can affect the most normal men adversely. He feels that no amount of training can prepare soldiers for the grisly situations they face in battle. He stresses the changes wrought by the constant threat of bombs and bullets and the loss of close friends in battle. We look forward to his further work on the subject, on which he is particularly qualified to comment. ORs may also want to comment, especially if they have spent time in war zones.

COLLEGE NEWS



Christopher Wills, Chairman of the Dulverton Trust,
opening the refurbished Science Labs in September 2013



Jane Gunner (1975-77), **Andrew Stafford** (1966-71), **Christopher Wills**



Roland Martin (1982-89; HM: 2011-) with pupils.



NM Generation Takes Centre Stage

When James Mudge and Luke Nixon started a theatrical production company whilst in Rendcomb's 4th Form, most people doubted it would be anything serious. Three years, two plays and one comedy night later NM Generation seems to be hitting its stride.

Their most recent productions include a short film and play entitled *Faith*, and a spoof talent show entitled *Live Night*. Whilst *Faith* is a relatively small production, only fifty minutes in length and a cast of eight, the boys have big hopes for it. "We've written and produced our own work before but this is the first time we're not only looking at multiple dates, but also multiple venues. This is probably our biggest undertaking so far and something we're both really excited about," said Mudge. *Faith* was performed throughout the Cotswolds in March and April before making its worldwide debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

The *Live Night* took place on Thursday 5th December and included live acting as well as pre-recorded video clips. "This was just something we crafted to have a bit of fun but also try some new things and expand our range that much more. It also gives us two the opportunity to try some new material and to continue to raise funds for the upcoming *Faith* tour," suggested Nixon.

The boys' first project was an ambitious one: writing, directing and staging their original play while in the middle of a rigorous GCSE filled Year 5. The hard work yielded a well-received production of *Ledley and Michael*, a modern day comedy about two middle class undergraduates who are faced with the problem of class, culture and of course romance. The play premiered in Rendcomb's Dulverton Hall in front of 162 audience members.

The success of their first project was soon followed up by the producing of *The Actor's Nightmare*- a short play written by Christopher Durang. Despite only four weeks to cast and rehearse, the play was well received and successful with over 140 people attending the one night only showing.

Only NM productions to date were their *Comedy Store* and radio station. The *Comedy Store* included five stand-up comedians, each given one set and by all accounts each set was just as funny as the one before. The radio

station, *Sunset Radio*, was a much smaller initiative, taken on to get to know Rendcomb staff better.

Headmaster Roland Martin commented on the boys' ambitions: "Both James and Luke are incredibly talented young men and everyone at the College admires their determination to be successful. As school Prefects, both boys set a good example for our younger pupils about chasing personal ambitions. Having seen a few NM Generation productions myself, I can say with certainty this is more than just something the boys are doing as a fun side project and everyone at the College supports their efforts."

Faith had its debut at Rendcomb College on March 25th and ran through to the 27th before heading to Cirencester's *Sundial* Theatre on Friday April 4th. For more information please see their [website](http://www.nmgeneration.co.uk): <http://www.nmgeneration.co.uk>



Thanks to Peter Hayes (1949-57) for these great pictures of *The Mock Doctor* by Moliere performed in 1953 in the Wilderness.



St Peter's Church, Rendcomb

As reported in last year's newsletter, St Peter's Church was threatened with closure. Thanks to the hard work of a number of committed villagers and staff, the church is moving forward positively. Over the Founder's Day (Whitsun) weekend there will be a flower festival if the Church, which will carry on in to the following week. There will also be a Parish Service on the day of the Summer Reunion at 11.00am should anyone like to join the congregation.

One of the requests that came about as a result of the article was for more information about the bells.

ST. PETER'S BELLS:

Please find below an extract from a book by the late Mary Bliss with all due acknowledgements.

RENDCOMB ST. PETER'S BELLS – WESTERN TOWER RING OF SIX BELLS

Tenor: G natural

Treble T Mears (1842) (28 inch 5cwt 1gr 1lb)

2nd Cast at Gloucester by T Mears (1841)

The gift of Sir John Wright Guise Bart K.C.B. (29 inch 5cwt 0qr 9lb)

3rd Cast at Gloucester by T Mears (1841)

The gift of Sir John Wright Guise Bart K.C.B. (30 inch 5cwt 0qr 26lb)

4th + Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis (Founder's Mark)

(Royal Arms Uncrowned) (32inch/26inch Cannons 4½ 6 cwt 1ar

15lb) 5th + Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis (Founder's Mark)

(Royal Arms **Crowned**)

(34 inch 1/c Cannons 5inch 6cwt 1qr 6lb)

6th + Missi De Celis Habed Nomen Gabrielis (Founders Mark)

(**Royal Arms Uncrowned**) (37 1/c Cannons 5½ 8cwt 1qr 19lb)

BELLS: Scaloped Canons to all, all turned, three largest bells inscribed with

ornamented capitals and black letter smalls. Portions of inscriptions underlined are incised.

Three smaller cast at Gloucester by Thomas Mears (1841-1842). Three largest by John Daniel, London mid 15th Century.

BELLFRAME: E & J Jacques 1841

GEAR: F A White 1977

The ring was restored in 1977 by F A White when the frame was brazed and rolled steel joists were **placed** beneath it.

The bells are hung from fine Iroko headstocks and are suspended by their canons in the traditional way. It is probably that this will be the last ring of bells to be so hung.

It is rare to find three medieval bells from the same foundry still in use today. Rendcomb is the only church in the diocese to possess such a treasure.

Apart from Gloucester Cathedral only two towers (Rendcomb and Shipton Moyne) possess bells from The London Medieval Foundry (most medieval Gloucestershire bells are from Gloucester and Bristol).

All three bells bear the Royal Coat of Arms. The Tenor bear the “**ihu ladi merci help**” stamp which is found on other bells by John Daniel who was casting about 1456-70.

In 1460 he cast a ring of bells for King’s College, Cambridge (this entitled him to use the Royal Coat of Arms).

The biochemist, **Frederick Sanger**, the only Briton to ever win two Nobel Prizes, died in November 2013. He was born in Rendcomb village in 1918 and had intended to follow his father into medicine. Instead he studied biochemistry at Cambridge University. His first Nobel Prize was awarded to him in 1958 for working out the structure for building insulin from proteins. The second was awarded in 1980 for establishing the first whole genome sequence of DNA. He accepted the Order of Merit in 1986 having turned down a knighthood, as he did not wish to be addressed as Sir. Those who visit the churchyard at Rendcomb may recall the Sanger family memorial sited to the north of the Church.



STAFF NEWS

Paul Jennings



Paul Jennings joined Rendcomb in 2002. Students at the College have been inspired by Paul's lessons. The popularity of the subject at A Level here and the results, which the English Department has achieved over the years has much to do with his own qualities as a front-line teacher and his very genuine passion for the subject.

Paul was always prepared to go the extra mile and his contributions to the co-curricular life of Rendcomb have been numerous and varied. Paul was recently described as an 'enthusiastic' and 'infectious' hockey coach who

contributed to both boys' and girls' training. Paul developed a lecture programme of Sixth Form Enrichment at Rendcomb inviting a range of speakers to the School – many of whom have had a profound influence on our pupils. **HM**

Mike Slark

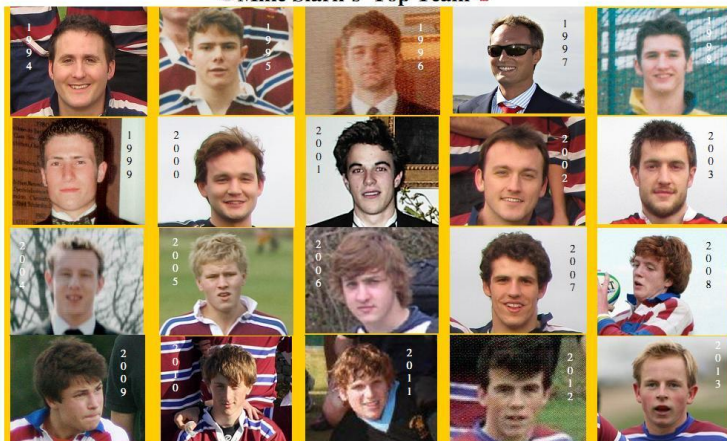
Mike Slark was appointed as teacher of Business Studies at Rendcomb in September 1992. Mike's role at Rendcomb developed considerably during his time at the School and he fulfilled a number of positions and taken on a number of challenges as Master in charge of Careers, Head of Business Studies, as a House Parent, Head of Sixth Form, as Master in charge of Rugby and most recently as Director of Sport. He and Ann looked after two House communities, including Park House, and did so with firm fairness; they made a good team and complemented each other in the role.

Interest in Mike's subject has been very strong throughout his time at Rendcomb even in the light of the recent addition of Economics on the curriculum, in part through his strong subject knowledge and experience as a Senior Examiner and lecturer at The Royal Agricultural University (née College!).

Many will know that Mike's true passion is sport – rugby in particular – and this is evident in the success of the teams at Rendcomb. As a small School, there are challenges in remaining competitive and it is notable that Rendcomb teams have traditionally 'punched above their weight' (as he would proudly assert) and come out with winning seasons against the odds.

At the heart of Rendcomb sport has been a spirit of fair play very much instilled into the ethos of teams from the top. **HM**

Mike Slark's Top Team



Pat Boydell, Nick Carmichael, Charles Webb, James Gibbs, Ian Forster, Nick Hall, Freddie Lait, Jonathan Pratt, Tommy Lait, Ralph Aspin, Geoff Hulbert, James Tarleton, Max Webb-Dickin, Richard Collins, Alex Tennant-Bell, Ieuan Clements, Alex Bishop, Dan Geerah, Will Scott, Dan Gregory

It is fitting that **Mike** decided to leave Rendcomb at the end of the Rugby term after 20 years of coaching the 1st XV. It also allowed the Society to come up with a present like no other. It took the combined efforts of Jane, Bill, Chris and Amanda but in the space of three weeks they managed to track down photographs of all 20 captains. It was unanimous amongst the Slark family that a better leaving gift could not have been found.

Pat Boydell (1988-95) writes: When Mike joined Rendcomb in September 1992 I was fourteen years old.

It is now (surprisingly for me and probably also for Mike) twenty-two years later and I am happy to share some thoughts about what Mike's dedication to the school means to me as well as other pupils past and present.

My first real experience of Mike and his main passion in life came during that first year when he took our form for under 15's rugby. It was obvious that he had a desire to win and that he had a positive and driven approach to both teaching and coaching. We had a solid season and learnt a lot from him but my clearest recollection is when we all got a severe dressing down for singing on the bus on the way back to school after we had been soundly beaten. This was our first experience of what Rugby means to Mike. It's not just a game!

He also took us in the upper sixth form for 1st XV rugby and coached us to a successful season. His enthusiasm for the game rubbed off on all of us and we found out what it was to work together as a team with pride.



I think that is the key word, pride. Pride in Rendcomb, pride in your team and in your achievements is something that Mike has managed to instill in countless Rendcomb pupils for over twenty-two years. Both on the pitch and in the class room where his teaching in Business studies gave the confidence to push students to achieve consistently high grades. He even somehow managed to get me a top mark at A level which as my contemporaries would attest to, is something of a miracle!

In more recent years Mike has been incredibly supportive of the

OR's sports days and has actively offered his help in organising a coordinating the reunions. This help was invaluable and it didn't just stop there. He wasn't content to just facilitate, he had to get involved and was in fact the first winning captain of the annual OR Society President's Cup for touch rugby sevens where he 'orchestrated' a fine win for a staff side. We never did work out why the final was played with different rules to the rest of the games, perhaps he can shed some light on it?

He also pulled together a Rendcomb select cricket team each year to face the ORs. This salvaged what was an event in decline and has been a great success for the last three years. Unfortunately for Mike, he couldn't reach the same heady heights as in the Rugby with the winning tally in favour of the old boys. Perhaps he can be tempted to pad up again in future...

When we were told that Mike was leaving there was a spirited reaction to want to recognise his contribution and the response from the OR's was unusually strong. We managed to get a good bunch to come back and play and see him off with a presentation and many others who sadly could not make it wished him well. This is a mark of a man who holds the respect of the people he has taught, coached and mentored throughout the last twenty plus years and I hope that Mike feels proud of that.

His help and dedication throughout his time at the school will be sorely missed by pupils and staff alike. We are lucky to have had him for so long and wish him all the best with his new relaxed time-table (watching rugby, part time lecturing, consulting and watching more rugby).

After years of roping ex-staff and past pupils in to returning to speak at the annual rugby club dinner, I hope he realises that he is a prime target! Hopefully he will also still be seen Up Top from time to time.

Carlo Vuolo

Carlo retired from teaching in November 2013 having taught at Rendcomb since 1996. He replaced **Mike Newby** as Head of Boys' PE and Science teacher when Mike became Deputy Head at Bedstone College.

Carlo had taught at St Birinus School, Didcot and had worked in industry so he brought a practical strength to his teaching of Science. His interest in Sport was welcomed in a school, which needs its teachers to contribute to both major and minor sports alike. His experience with the Juventus School of Football must have helped with Staff Football!



In the PE department Carlo taught PE at

GCSE and at AS/A level when the subject was introduced in 2001 to increase the breadth in the Sixth Form. He also ran several of the successful Sports Days in the summer term in which competing for a team became very popular: Redgrave, Bannister, Radcliffe or Edwards. Does anyone remember North, South, East and West?

He always taught Biology to A level and Science to GCSE, providing him with a full timetable and later in his career he acted as Head of Science. Carlo immediately took over the reins of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, his particular interest lying in the expeditions. The Scheme had been the natural progression from the expeditions introduced by **John Willson** in the late 1960s and it seemed appropriate that John should act as Gold Award assessor on occasions. Carlo always encouraged the students to reach their potential and consequently most were able to look back at their achievements with great pride. It was during such expeditions, shared with his Golden Retriever, Grouse, that I learned of Carlo's love of the outdoors and his excellent crossword solving skills.

He has many other talents including guitar playing so it was inevitable that he would be persuaded to play in a school rock concert. He acted as assistant House Parent and Tutor throughout his time at Rendcomb and he was very positive pastorally. Like many of the staff at Rendcomb, Carlo has contributed in a wide variety of ways, too numerous to catalogue here. We wish him happiness and success with the next stage of his life.

Chris Wood

OR TRAVEL BURSARY

Harvey Rich (2001-2009):

During last summer, I spent 6 weeks on Hoga Island in Indonesia as part of an organised conservation research trip. My expedition was led by Operations Wallacea, a network of academics that run research programmes across the world. As a part of my BSc Geography degree course at the University of Southampton I decided to undertake a research project for my dissertation on the impact of climate change on 'coral bleaching'.

It took around 3 days of non-stop travel to reach the island, with numerous flights, boat rides and taxi trips through all hours of the day and night. Hoga Island is a small, tranquil, tropical, island with a small indigenous population to the north and the Operation Wallacea facility to the south. This facility comprised a number of research buildings as well as the dive centre and a social area. There was some very hi-tech equipment available there, some which I used during my investigation. I made use of a PAM fluorometer which looks into the physiological response of corals when submitted to environmental stresses. The facilities were rather basic. Huts were used as accommodation quarters and we had the use of a well on the island for our water supply including the use of buckets for showers! The nearest emergency and medical facilities were over 24 hours way by boat which gives you an indication of the remoteness of this location.

Whilst there, I completed a variety of different courses which allowed me to complete my research and data collection in an efficient manner. During my



first week, I completed a PADI open water diving qualification, which required me to don my wet suit twice a day and learn the skills of scuba diving. Hoga is situated in the Wakatobi, which is renowned as one of the most pristine and exciting diving regions in the world. During the diving course, I

saw a plethora of remarkable flora and fauna and fascinating marine life, from sea turtles to barracuda, as well as some amazing tiny sea creatures called ‘nudibranchs’; soft bodied, slow moving marine creatures.

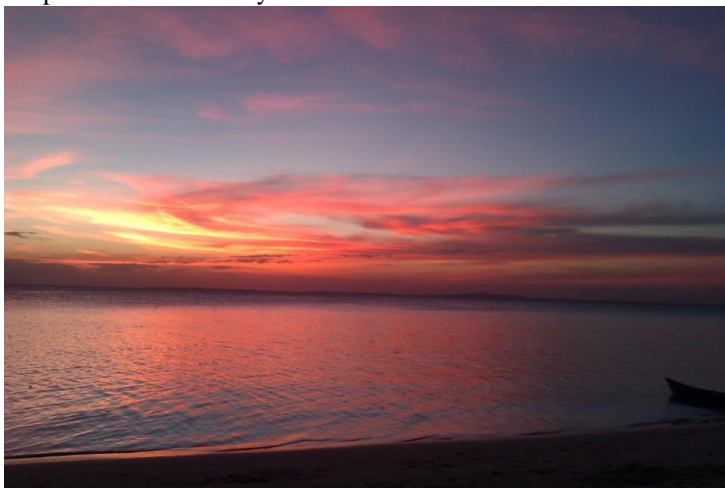
During my second week, I completed a coral reef ecology course, which helped me to understand and identify the ecology of the area. All students had to complete this in order to undertake their own research, or assist other students with their data collection. As part of my dissertation data collection I undertook marine ecological surveys and laboratory experiments.



However, my time spent on the island was not solely about academic work as there were also plenty opportunities to enjoy myself! There were over 50 students from all over the world studying for their dissertations and following the Wallacea programme on the island and there were plenty of different experiences to share and compare! I spent a lot of time meeting new people and having fun, and I have kept in touch with a number of students since I left the island. Every Tuesday night was ‘social night’, a time to unwind and relax after a hard week’s work. When I was not studying I enjoyed playing table tennis and beach cricket with my new friends. My abiding memory will be of sitting in the beach cabanas chatting with my friends as we watched the sun slowly descend on the horizon.

There were plenty of animals on the island with numerous monitor lizards and snakes slithering round the camp, meaning there was the occasional fright in the dark of the night! All of the locals were really kind and

welcoming and enjoyed our company and improving their English. I still keep in touch with many of them on Facebook too.



My trip to Indonesia was one of the most eye opening experiences of my life. I learnt a lot about myself and met some fantastic people and also collected some amazing data for my final year dissertation. This wonderful opportunity would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Old Rendcombian Society, to whom I am greatly indebted.

As I sit in my study bedroom in my students house writing this account of my exploits on the other side of the world I am in my 3rd year at University and in the process of studying for my Finals. I am already thinking about studying for a Masters and perhaps going on another study tour to some exotic part of the world. My advice to my successors at Rendcomb College is ‘carpe diem’ – ‘seize the day’ and take every opportunity that life presents to you!

Jazz Barkes (2001-09):

For the last 2 years I have been training as part of the Scotland Senior Women’s National Lacrosse Squad. In February 2013, I was selected to travel to Florida, America, on a tour with this team as part of the selection process for the Senior Women’s World Cup. The OR Society were kind enough to award me a travel bursary to help cover the cost of this tour, as, without attending this my dream of playing at the World Cup would have been over. 24 of us travelled to the States and played 8 matches over the 6 days against American College teams, with varying results. Some of these

games were incredibly tough but highlighted to us what we needed to build on as a team and were invaluable for our team progression. On return from America, I found out that I had been selected to travel to Oshawa, Canada, as part of the Senior Women's World Cup Squad. Being in my final year at Bristol University, the training programme was tough to fit in around my studies but somehow I managed it! I travelled with 18 others to Canada in July 2013 where we began the 10 day tournament. We faced a few adversities as a team, mainly the weather – we were used to training in freezing conditions in Edinburgh and now we were playing in 30 degrees and 100% humidity! The whole tournament was amazing, a totally indescribable experience and one that will never be forgotten. We managed to win our pool, with an incredibly close game against Japan being the decider, where we scored the winning goal with 3.9 seconds on the clock. We then faced Wales in the finals for 5th place. We obviously know the Welsh team well and have played them numerous times, and in this instance it was their turn. We finished the tournament placing 6th out of 21 teams – a massive achievement for a team coming from such a small country.

I am incredibly grateful to both Rendcomb and the OR Society – without Rendcomb, I would never have been introduced to the game, and without the OR Society I would never have been able to get this far. I am now out in Australia and am continuing to train with amazing teams out here with the intention of representing Scotland Senior Women at the 2017 World Cup in England. I am more than sure we will see some other faces from the Rendcomb hallways at this tournament too!



CRICKET – 30th June 2013



Back row left to right: Alex Kentfield (2005-11), Jack Harris (2008-10), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Tony Rose (1965-71), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), guest, Toby Harris (2005-07), Rory Clark (2003-10), Max Birden (2007-12), Ollie Birden (pupil), Tom Pethick (pupil), Mike Slark (Staff: 1991-2013)

Front Row left to right: David Baker (Staff: 2008-), David Essenhigh (Staff: 1969-2013), Neil Ferreira (Staff), Eddie Geerah (2013), Damon Young (pupil), Charlie Lamble (pupil), Jack Pethick (pupil), Will Scott (pupil), Josh Thomas (pupil), James Tait (pupil).



It was a fiercely contested game in the lovely sunshine where the ORs eked out a 2 wicket win.

RUGBY REUNION – Sunday 8th December 2013



Back row: James Brittain (2001-2010), George Ord (2008-2010), Steve Brown (2004-2009), Max Birden (2007-2012), James Taylor (pupil), Alex Tatara Mills (pupil), Adam Phelps (1982-84), John Henniker- Gotley (1973-78), Sam White (guest), Harley Phelps (2002-09), J Hutton-Potts (1977-1984), Howard Auster (pupil)

Front Row: Richard Ashton (guest), Tom Geeran (2005-2010), Paddy Gilling (2007-2012), Dan Gregory (pupil), Ralph Aspin (1997-2004), Stephen Jones (1988-95), Ed Thomason (2005-10), Richard Collins (2001-08)



The Winners: Howard Auster (pupil), Ed Thomason (2005-10), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Richard Collins (2001-08), Sam White (guest, son of Duncan White (1976-81))

LACROSSE – Saturday 29th March 2014



L-R Emma Fuchs (pupil), Ellie Jones (pupil), Eleanor Brealy (pupil), Jo Jo Bock (Pupil), Alex Mason, Holly Phelps (2001-2012), Megan Mulhall (2004-2012), Andrea Haas (2003-2012), Charlotte Stedman (2002-2010), Cathy Hebert (Lacrosse coach), Lexi Kelly (Lacrosse coach) & Rosie Gower (pupil).
An energetic match resulted in a 4-4 draw

HOCKEY – Saturday 29th March 2014



ORs First XI, Back row, L-R: James Brittain (2001-10), Charlie Lamble (2011-2013), Ben Margesson (2007-13), Will Scott (2006-13), Alex Kentfield (2005-11), Ian Forster (1994 -99), Alex Holden (2000-07), Steven Brown (2004-2009), Ali Tennant-Bell (2004-09), Max Birden (2007-12)
Front Row: Ed Thomason (2005-10), Harley Phelps (2002-09), Josh Thomas (2006-13), Richard Ashton (guest), Joe Scott (2001-08)

HOCKEY continued:

An excellent turnout of 27 players for the games allowed for rolling substitutions in both the firsts and seconds matches. The ORs were very impressed with the College teams and quality of hockey played and the OR First XI were relieved to escape with a 1-1 draw.

The OR seconds lost 2-1 in the dying seconds to a penalty corner. An excellent day's play was enjoyed all round.

HP**DESTINATION OF 6A LEAVERS 2013**

Hongyang Bao	Chemistry, Imperial College
Oliver Baylis	Music, Percussion, Birmingham Conservatoire
Lance Baynham	History, Oxford University
Jialing Huang	Information Management for Business, University College London
Charlotte Jones	Music (combined), Leeds College of Music
Charles Lamble	Politics, Leicester
Yunpeng Lu	Mathematics and Economics, Reading
Benjamin Margesson	Agriculture and Farm Management, Royal Agriculture University
William Scott	Mechanical Engineering (4 years), Southampton
Tristan Stevens	Biomedical Science, Sussex
Luke Witts	Chemistry with a six month placement, Southampton
Jiahui Xu	Mechanical Engineering, Warwick
Honbin Zhang	Biomedical Engineering, Imperial College
Shangqiong Liu	Accounting and Finance, Durham
Yi Pan	Business & Management Studies, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Jack Pethick	History, Southampton
Alistair Sinfield	Psychology, Plymouth
Min Zhu	Urban Planning, Newcastle
Jiangzhong Zhu	Accounting Business and Management, York

Destination of 2012 leavers

Evangeline Bevans	Science with a Foundation year (4 years), East Anglia
Maximillian Birden	Football Studies with STFY, Solent
Daniel Geerah	Zoology, Cardiff
Holly Phelps	Drama and Theatre Arts, Birmingham

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Registered Charity No: 290373

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

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

Other Trustees: Appointed

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

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

Keith Winmill – OR (1972-79)

Mark Naylor – Comm. Ops Manager, Rendcomb College

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

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

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

This has been another encouraging year for 'The Friends.' With the help
of three major donations our income has grown from £5000 to £15,000.
We have been able to support two pupils with small bursaries.

There are now seventeen members of the 1920 Club. It aims to grow its
membership to one hundred, which could provide the necessary funds
to support a full scholarship for a pupil entering the College at the age
of eleven.

The Headmaster, Roland Martin, hosts an annual dinner at the College for
members. It is hoped that in future years Oxford or London could be used
as a venue.

I have found that contacting Old Rendcombians by post yields limited
results. The personal phone call or net working has proved more successful.
Are you willing to contact some of your contemporaries with the help of the
trustees, to raise funds? If you are please contact Colin Burden.

The Friends are very sad to hear of the sudden death of Colin Hitchcock
(see pages 19-24). As many of you know Colin set up and maintained the
Old Rendcombian website. At his funeral it was suggested that a fund
could be set up in his memory to provide a small annual award or bursary.
At the moment the fund has an annual income of over £1000. Further

contributions would be most welcome.

Did you know that you can help The Friends for free? Conduct your online shopping through www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Over £500 has been raised so far.

Finally a big thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of The Friends this year. **Colin Burden**



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

e-mail.....

Years at Rendcomb.....

Telephone Number.....

Please send to:

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

Or e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk