



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

2019

45th Edition

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Digital Edition 2019

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

OR Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on 1st July 2018, the following officers were elected:

President:	Bill White (Staff 1961-97) 3 Jessop Drive, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JG Telephone: 01451 860943
Chairman:	Richard Tudor (1973-80)
Vice-Chairman:	Jessica Weston (1998-2005)
Honorary Secretary:	Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7BA Telephone: 01285 658627 E-mail: <i>jane@r2g2.co.uk</i>
Treasurer:	Claire Germaine (1990-93)
School Representative:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 1994-)
Committee Members:	Nigel Powell (1967-74) Neil Lumby (1968-73) Edward Thomason (2005-10; Staff 2011-) Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff 1976-2009) Harley Phelps (2002-09) Iain Whittaker (1980-87) Hamish Wilson (1971-78)
Honorary Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) Keynes House, Water Lane, Somerford Keynes Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 6DS E-mail: <i>rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk</i>

**The Minutes of the Old Rendcombian Society
85th Annual General Meeting
held at Rendcomb College in Room E1 on Sunday 1st July 2018**

Present: **Jane Gunner** *née Watson* (1975-77), **Brian Smith** (1965-72), **Julian Comrie** (1946-54), **Bill White** (Staff 1961-97), **Christopher Pulford** (1970-77), **Des Knox** (1970-75), **Jonathan Fletcher** (1968-75), **Phill Lamphree** (1968-75), **Trevor Patrick** (1964-71), **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78), **Richard Hunt** (1961-67), **Bob Edy** (1959-67; Staff 2015-), **Anthony Hillier** (1963-68), **Colin Burden** (Staff: 1963-97), **Mark Naylor** (Staff 1995-2017), **Rob Jones** (Headmaster 2015-), **Richard Tudor** (1973-80), **Alex Brealy** (1980-87; Staff 1994-), **Claire Germaine** (1990-93).

1. Apologies received from:
David Williams (1966-71), **Chris Wood** (1965-71; Staff 1976-2009), **Vyvyan Rayner** (1961-64), **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10; Staff 2011-), **Neil Lumby** (1968-73), **Christopher Jefferies** (1957-64), **Jess Weston** (1998-2005), **Nigel Powell** (1967-74).
2. The minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting were signed as a correct record after Item 7 in Any Other Business, was corrected in two places to read Sixth Form rather than Fifth Form.
3. Matters arising
Rob Jones (Headmaster 2015-) reported that the Polymerase Chain Reaction machine had been very well received and was in constant use. It is cutting edge and Rendcomb is one of the first schools to have one. Rob went on to report that the College academic results are strong and they are looking forward to good results in A levels and GCSEs this summer.
In sport, boys' Hockey had done well with the hockey team winning 6/7 of their games (Gloucester schools' tournament).
The girls' Lacrosse team were runners up in the small schools' competition (National U17).
There had been some amazing productions, notably *Les Misérables*, which involved everyone from J5 through to Y13.

Founder's Day was a great occasion with an inspirational speech from Floella, Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham, and excellent speeches from the Head Boy, William Vaughan, and Head Girl, Rebeccah Breare. Will then went on to give an outstanding singing performance with his teacher.

Rob explained that the AstroTurf would be renewed after 25 years and that the Friends of Rendcomb would be making a contribution to it. Plans were underway for Godman House to be extended to become a junior house for both boys and girls and the Old Rectory will become a Sixth Form centre. There will also be a change in the weekly timetable with academic lessons no longer being taught on a Saturday although there would be sports and activities.

Rob went on to say that the situation for private schooling was currently quite difficult with a lot of negativity in media coverage. Locally, Westonbirt had been bought up by a chain and would be going co-educational in the senior school. He hoped that ORs would help to promote Rendcomb, which remained true to the Founder's principles with service being a key feature of the College ethos.

Sixth Formers are now keeping a log of the services they do for the community and there is a service element to the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme and the College now do all three awards; bronze, silver and gold.

The Chairman thanked Rob for his update and Rob left the meeting.

4. Treasurer's report

Claire Germaine (1990-93) presented the accounts, which had been done in consultation with **Chris Wood** (1965-71; Staff 1976-2009) and audited by **David Williams** (1966-71).

Claire explained that the OR Society had made a £250 donation in memory of Penny Wood.

There had been an increase in sales thanks to a sudden run on the late **Douglas Payne's** (1940-48) book.

Jane Gunner (1975-77) reported that the College had been contacted by the University of Buckingham and David Walsh, who is compiling a book on schools during the World War II. Jane sent him Douglas's book, extracts from History I, a Photographic History and the Roll of Honour.

The accounts were accepted and the meeting recorded its thanks to Claire, Chris Wood and David Williams.

5. Travel Bursary

Jane reported that while there had been no applications for the travel bursary over the last two years, there had been a sudden rush recently which included helping some people to take part in some school trips they might otherwise have been unable to do.

It was proposed by **Alex Brealy** (1980-87; Staff 1994-), and seconded by **Bob Edy** (1959-67; Staff 2015-) that the travel bursary for 2019 should remain at £1,500.

6. Any Other Business

Bob Edy and **Brian Smith** (1965-72) asked what would be happening to celebrate the centenary of the College in 2020.

Richard Tudor (1973-80) was able to announce that there would be a ball at the end of the summer term on Saturday 4th July 2020. Jane and **Mark Naylor** (Staff 1995-2017) had already had a preliminary discussion with the College who would be taking the lead. If the ball followed the outline of the 75th anniversary ball, there would be 450 tickets available for the ball with accommodation for about 100. It was also hoped that there would be a cricket tournament.

In light of the Head's request for support from the ORs, **Anthony Hillier** (1963-68) raised the fact that there were no longer London dinners where older ORs could support and encourage younger ones starting out in the city. Also, that the College rarely called on ORs to come back to talk to current pupils. Mark Naylor said that when this had happened, it had been very well received by the pupils.

Jane said that **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-97), had put an enormous amount of effort in pointing the College in the direction of supportive ORs and it was hoped that this would soon be followed up.

It was pointed out that 60s leavers had always felt discouraged from returning to the College. Jane said that this was also a concern to immediate leavers and the Headmaster and **Richard Tudor** (1973-80) would be meeting leavers early in the summer term to reassure them that the College welcomed all its alumni, as did the OR Society.

Mark Naylor (Staff 1995-2017) reported that he had recently taken over the position of Executive Trustee to the Friends of Rendcomb.

He thanked **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-97) for all he had done in the position and for all his help and support during the handover.

The Friends of Rendcomb had been concentrating on providing support to pupils who would otherwise have had to leave the College. Also, the very generous donations from two supporters were being combined to offer a bursary to a new 6th Former. The Friends of Rendcomb Trust is also able to support infrastructure projects.

Bill White (Staff 1961-97) thanked the committee for all they did for the Society and for the excellence of the newsletter, which continued to appeal across the generations.

Jane reported that out of 1,250 sent out, so far only 15 people had opted to receive an e-mail notifying them when it was available to download.

7. The meeting closed at 1.15pm with a vote of thanks to the College.

SPORTS CONTACTS

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

College: Alex Brealy 01285 832314 (work), 01285 832363 (home)

Edward Thomason

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

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

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

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

86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to attend the 86th Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society on Sunday 30th June 2019 in Room E1 at Rendcomb College at 12.15pm.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 85th AGM held on 1st July 2018
3. Centenary celebrations
4. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
5. To receive Honorary Treasurer's report
6. Travel bursary
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the College

OR SUMMER REUNION – 30th June 2019

Timetable: Sunday 30th June 2019

10.30am	Coffee in Clock Hall
11.15am	Cricket match
12.00 noon	Pay Bar opens
12.15pm	AGM in Room E1
1.00pm	Hot lunch including vegetarian option for cricketers and all visitors – main course to be collected from Servery. No charge: any donations to the OR Society would be gratefully received
	Staff retirement presentations
2.30pm	Tours of the buildings
	Cricket match resumes up Top
4.30pm	Tea in Pavilion

ALL ARE WELCOME!

NOT JUST THOSE PLAYING OR HAVING A YEAR GROUP REUNION

FUTURE REUNIONS & SPORTS FIXTURES

For other sporting fixtures, please visit the OR website and Facebook page.

40 YEARS ON – Leavers from 1979 call to action!

If you can recall, and are indeed on the roll call beginning, “Archer, Adams, Beanland, Brennan etc.” now is the time! Can you believe it is 40, yes 40 years since that infamous class of 1979 celebrated in the Summer as they all left for pastures new... but what were the pastures new, and how has the time treated us all?

Well, this summer’s OR Day – **Sunday 30th June** – is the time to find out! Windy (aka Keith Winmill), Dave (Marshall) and Nigel (Burgess) are sending out an invitation to come back to the School, see how it (and indeed we!) have changed and to renew old (I use the word with trepidation!) acquaintances.

So, if you are one of the Sixth Form leavers from the summer of 1979, pencil that date in your diary – and even more importantly, if in touch with your peers, let them know!

A Facebook page has been set up to try and get the message to as many as possible - **Rendcomb Leavers 79** – so please have a look, get in touch, and let’s see if we can congregate for a day of reminiscence ending with a drink (or two) at the Bathurst Arms. Windy (e-mail: windy186@hotmail.com)

THE FIRST 50 YEARS – Invitation to Celebration Lunch

All pupils who attended Rendcomb in the first 50 years (up to and including 1970) are warmly invited to attend a celebration lunch that is to be held at the College as part of the centenary celebrations.

The event is scheduled for **Thursday 28th May 2020**.

Old Rendcombians who fall into this category should have a loose-leaf invitation included with their magazine. Please do have a close look at this. We want as many people as possible to attend this lunch together with their partners. It will be an excellent chance to meet up with school friends whom you might not have seen in the last 50 or 60 years.

We are planning a three-course lunch together with coffee. I am pleased to report that College food is something that has improved radically over the years so should not disappoint! Full details of what is planned on the day and timings are set out on the invitation.

We are also asking everyone who attended the College up to 1970 to recall their lasting memories of their time at the College. What were the good points? Equally what were the bad points? How did your time at Rendcomb influence your future life? Anything along these lines would be of interest. Even if you cannot attend the lunch please do send your thoughts to me by email. We are hoping to collect all submissions together and display them on the day for people to mull over. We also want photographs together with items of Rendcomb memorabilia to display so please bring these along if you have any.

Please act now. Don't delay. Enter the date in your calendar while it is still fresh in your mind. If you are interested in attending please send **Brian Smith** an e-mail at *rendcomb2020@gmail.com*. Please do this as soon as you can. All expressions of interest need to be submitted by **30th June 2019** so that an assessment can be made of likely numbers. Payment for the lunch won't be required until early 2020 but we do need you to respond now. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Lunch organising committee are:

Bob Edy (1959-67; Staff 2015-)

Julian Comrie (1946-54)

Brian Smith (1965-72) (e-mail: *rendcomb2020@gmail.com*)



OR SUMMER REUNION – 1st July 2018

Bill White (Staff 1961-97) writes:

For the second year running we had a really glorious summer's day for the reunion. Thanks to the work of **Charlie Hussey** (1974-76), **Lucy Brain** (1974-76) and, of course, **Des Knox** (1970-75) there was a really strong representation of ORs from the mid-seventies. It was good to see some who had not returned for quite a few years and, I think, one or two who had never been back since they left. Quite a number had also had an enjoyable get together *Chez Flambard* (1971-78) the previous evening.

The general feeling was that, overall, the College still had the same feel about it, despite the new buildings and cosmetic upgrading such as the Reading Room. The AGM was well supported with quite a few new faces as well as stalwart regulars. I suppose the highlight of the afternoon tours was the new Griffin Centre, but ORs enjoyed just wandering round with **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-97) and **Richard Tudor** (1973-80) our Chairman. We were grateful, once again, to the Headmaster, **Rob Jones** (2015-), for seeing that there was access to as many of the College's facilities as was practical and to **Amanda Brealy** for opening up the Old Rectory and for taking the group photo.

Group photo on facing page:

Back row left to right: **Phill Lamphee** (1968-75), **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-97), **Tim Longworth** (1969-76), **Charlie Hussey** (1974-76), **Phil Everatt** (1969-76), **Jade Sinclair** (1973-78), **Richard Hunt** (1961-67), **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78), **Nigel Green** (1961-69), **Anthony Hillier** (1963-68), **Nigel Taylor** (1971-78), **Simon Buist** (1971-78), **Chris Pulford** (1970-77).

Second row: **Trevor Patrick** (1964-70), **Bill White** (Staff 1961-97), **Dawn Surl née Mackonochie** (1974-76), **Charlotte Bonardi** (1976-78), **Sarah Robins née Morris** (1976-78), **Andy Mackonochie** (1971-78), **Ian Pengelly** (1972-78), **Tony Flambard** (1971-78), **Pete Haynes** (1972-78).

Front row: Ollie Longworth (not at Rendcomb – son of Nick), **Nick Longworth** (1970-76), Guest, **Des Knox** (1970-75), **Lucy Brain** (1974-76), **Chris Troughton** (1973-78), **Pen Jones** (1976-78), **Tim Parfitt** (1971-78), **Treve Evans** (1971-78), **Ileana Porras** (1976-78), **Sheila Lee née Greenfield** (1976-78), **Gray Moore** (1971-78), **Brian Smith** (1965-72), Rev'd **Bob Edy** (1959-67; Staff 2015-).

We were once again grateful to the College Catering Manager for providing an excellent lunch and also tea which was served in the College as there was no cricket match. The happy and convivial atmosphere which was very much in evidence throughout the day, together with the superb weather, will have evoked many memories of years spent at Rendcomb in its wonderful Cotswold setting. It was a highly successful reunion day.



Back row left to right: Jade Sinclair, Hamish Wilson, Nigel Taylor, Simon Buist. Middle row: Sarah Robins née Morris, Charlotte Bonardi, Andrew Mackonochie, Ian Pengelly, Anthony Flambard, Pete Haynes. Front row: Pen Jones, Tim Parfit, Chris Troughton, Treve Evans, Ileana Porras, Sheila Lee née Greenfield, Graham Moore.



ORs from the 1960s
*Left to right: Trevor Patrick,
 Richard Hunt, Bob Edy,
 Anthony Hillier, Brian Smith.
 Seated: Nigel Green.*



OTHER OR REUNIONS



Grant Hughes (1982-89), Julian Fellows (1981-89), Ben Maslen (1983-90), Mark Hastings (1981-88), Russell Ogden (1984-89) met up in Morzine for a week of sun, skiing and reminiscing.

Alice Tredwell *née Barefoot* writes: A bunch of us from 1997-2004 went out for dinner in Cirencester to celebrate the birthdays of **Ralph Aspin** and **Edd Kiggins**. There were a lot of ORs around the table. Fab evening reminiscing and catching up...



Left to right Romilly Ringstrom née Evans, Edd Kiggins, Chris Barefoot, Ed Warrington, Harri Kingsford (1999-2004), Ralph Aspin, Alice Tredwell née Barefoot (1997-2004), Sarah Colson, Tom Davis

2012 leavers went to Prague, we think they enjoyed it!

*Back row, left to right: **Thomas Benson** (2002-12), Timothy Jeffrey, **Christian Couch** (2005-12), **Daniel Geerah** (2007-12), **Jordan Thomas** (2005-12), **Holly Phelps** (2001-12) *Front row: **Isobel Bailey** (2007-10), **Jacob McKeown** (2002-12).**



CONGRATULATIONS

Harvey Rich (2002-09), a Pass with Merit in MSc Environment & Sustainability from UCL.

Rosalind Baynham (2004-15) 1st Class Hons, BSc Sport & Exercise Science, Birmingham University.

Kathryn Rew (2005-15) 1st Class Hons, BSc Business Management & Marketing, Birmingham University.

David Mabblerley (1959-66) was awarded a DSc Honoris Causa by Macquarie University in recognition of his work in Botany worldwide.

Jazmine Barks (2001-09) was awarded a high distinction in Midwifery at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. She was also chosen to receive the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation 'Student Midwife Award' which is an Australian wide award with 6 recipients/year.

Thomas Pethick (2008-15) 1st Class Hons, BA Film & History, Southampton University.

Miles McKeown (2003-15) 1st Class Hons, BSc Business Management, Swansea University.

Florence Price (2008-15) 1st Class Hons, BSc Economics, Cardiff University.

Victoria Clark (2003-14) won 'Young Insurance Person of the Year' at the insurance publication COVERs awards in June 2018.

Sergeant Andy Branston (1987-92) is pictured opposite after receiving his MBE from Her Majesty the Queen recently, along with other military recipients of state awards.

Sergeant Branston (RAF Regiment – RAF Benson Stn FP Trg Flight) received State recognition for his extraordinary efforts which have included the following: Carrying out CPR for 40 minutes as a team on a wounded American soldier on board MERT under very challenging circumstances during Operation HERRICK in 2011.

Furthermore, as part of RAF Mountain Rescue, he acted as part of the team to evacuate and ultimately save a member of the Mountain Rescue Team by moving first equipment up the side of a mountain for his extraction. He has been instrumental in training over 200 Servicemen and women in TRiM (Trauma Risk Management) plus working towards suicide prevention. During a commute to work, he acted directly and saved two lives who were injured as a result of a traffic accident.

He proudly and successfully represents RAF Cycling in time trailing.
This all achieved while he and his wife, Tara, were foster parents to three children who required a caring, stable family during very difficult times.



BIRTHS

To Jessica Francis and **Sam Gunner** (1996-2003) a daughter,
Liberty Rose, July 2018.

To **Richard** (1997-2004) and Alice **Burden** a son,
Ethan Harry, October 2018.

MARRIAGES

Frances Burden (1995-2002) married Graham Checksfield at St. Peter's Church, Stratton, Cirencester in June 2018. The reception was held at Chavenage House, Tetbury, of 'Poldark' fame.





*Above, back row: **Richard** (1997-2004) and Alice **Burden**,
Colin (Staff 1963-97) and Dorothy **Burden**.*

*Below: **Bill White** (1961-97) also attended the wedding.*





Harley Phelps (2002-09) married Holly McCord at St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Guiting Power on a fabulously hot day in June 2018. Harley's sister, **Holly** (2001-12) sang a song she had written entitled 'My brother' which had the congregation both laughing and crying. Amongst the other ORs who attended were: **Adam Phelps** (1980-82), **Jennifer Phelps** *née Watson* (1978-80), **Jane Gunner** *née Watson* (1975-77), **Sam Gunner** (1996-2003), **Luke Gunner** (1998-2005), **Mark Gunner** (2001-08), **Jennifer Lane-Birkenstock** *née Lane* (1980-81), **John Henniker-Gotley** (1973-78), **James and Jane Stutchbury** (Staff 1993-2015), **Charlie Stutchbury** (2001-08), **Richard Collins** (2001-08), **Sinaed Brennan** (2001-09), **Alex Tennant-Bell** (2002-09), **Ottie Henniker-Gotley** (2000-04), **Andrea Haas** (2005-12), **Jack Barton** (2002-03), **Henry Evans** (2002-07), **Issy Bailey** (2007-10), **Steve Brown** (2004-09), **Rosie Freeth** (2002-09), **Alex Paton** (1977-84).







Amanda Graham (2000-07) married Adam Sansom in July 2018 at St. Dyfrig and St. Samson Church, Cardiff.



Laura Graham (2000-10) was bridesmaid.

Manda's father, Martin Graham (Head of History 1985-2017) gave her away and in her words gave a blinding speech!



ORs in attendance where **Alex Holden** (2000-07), **Beth Davies** *née Sampson* (2002-07), **Jade Loughran** *née Harrison* (2002-07) and **Alex Jones** (2005-10).





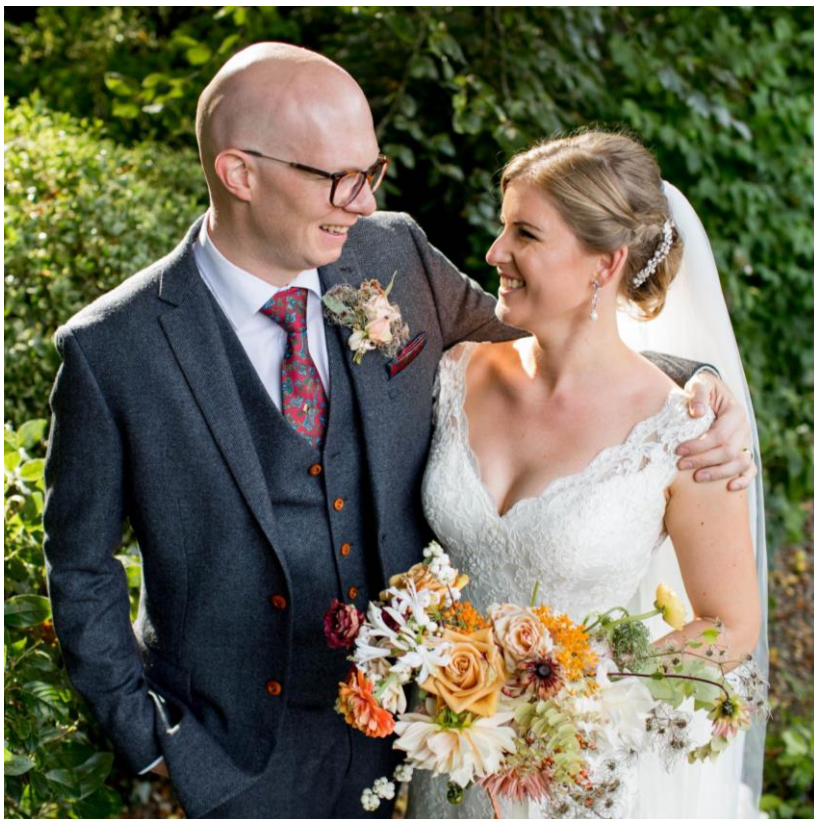
Rebecca Hutchison (2001-06) married **Oliver Richards** (2003-08) at St. Andrew's Church, Eastleach and held the reception afterwards at The Bay Tree Hotel, Burford in August 2018.





ORs: Laurie Wilcox (2001-08), Richard Pass (2002-08), Joe Scott (2001-08), Rebecca, Oli, Hannah Richards (2003-08), Charlie Stutchbury (2001-08), James Bladon (2001-06), Rory Gilling (2005-10), Jonathan Newton (2003-08), Sophie Humphries (2004-09), Amy Sinclair (2006-08), Ed Hutchison (1999-2004), Sinead Brennan (2001-09), Richard Collins (2001-08), Aimee Schofield (2001-08), Mark Gunner (2001-08)

Richard Whittles (2002-07) married Katy Binmore in September 2018. They enjoyed a wonderful wedding day. The happy couple got engaged during their 2-year stint as doctors in Australia. On their return to the UK Richard started a 4-year training program to be consultant in A&E and Katy started training in geriatric medicine. They live near Tavistock.





Luke Lester-Powell (2001-08), **Jade Longhran** *née Harrison* (2002-07), **Amanda Sansom** *née Graham* (2000-07),
Abigail Whittles, (2004-09), **Tom Wise** (2005-07), **Katy** and **Richard Whittles**, **Lucas Bliss** (Best man),
Ellie Whittles (2002-07), **Ed Jefferson** (2000-05)(Groomsman), **Ben Crane** (2000-07) **Randal Pakeman**, (2006-08),
Max Web-Dickin (2000-07)





Struan McDonald (1969-72) married Laura Glynne-Jones *née Kennedy* in September 2018 at an Indian-themed wedding in their garden near Malmesbury. Guests were treated to a festival of colour and light. **Jane** (1975-77) and Richard **Gunner** attended the wedding.



Edward Warrington (1997-2002) married Natasha Shoult at St. Peter's Church Rendcomb September 2018. The service was taken by Rev'd Bob Edy (1959-67; Staff 2015-).

Emily Tennant-Bell (2005-10) married Greg Noble in December 2018 at St. Chad's Church, Welbourn in Lincolnshire.

ORs present were Emily's brother, **Alex Tennant-Bell** (2004-09) and sister, **Abigail Tennant-Bell** (2005-10), **Rory Clark** (2003-10) and **Natasha Heffron** (2005-10).





STAFF LEAVERS

Susie Watkins (Staff 2004-18)



Susan (Sue) Watkins joined Rendcomb College in 2004, but as there was already another Sue working in the Finance Office, she became known as *Susie*. She previously worked for 14 years at Countrywide Farmers plc, and a reference from her former employer said: *Sue will be sorely missed by her colleagues for both her dedicated professional skills and her ready smile*. That continued for a further 14 years at Rendcomb where Susie was always willing to help everyone in any situation with her caring and thoughtful attitude.

Susie took on the role of primary carer for *Martin* the Goldfish, (who was named after the previous Junior School Head). She visited him every morning to check on his wellbeing and ensure his fish tank accommodation was always up to high-spec!

An opportunity arose to work from home and support her partner in his financial business, so after years of commuting, working early mornings and late evenings, it was more than appropriate that now was the time to make that change.

Susie enjoys a very active social life and we were all amazed how she managed to pack so many events into her weekends! Her passion is her pet bunnies (rabbits), who are housetrained and an integral part of the family. Susie will be sorely missed as a loyal colleague with her wisdom and friendship to one and all.

Sylvia Brown (Staff 1976-2019) worked as part of the domestic team at the College for more than 42 years. She has worked all over the school but spent a lot of time in The Arts Block and more recently she has been working in Stable Block. Of course, she remembers the days before Stable House and Lawn House were built. Also, when the Main Building was a boarding house and the History classroom was a bathroom; a wealth of knowledge.



Sylvia receiving a bouquet from Governor, Prue Hornby

Thierry Francois (Staff 2003-19) has left to become Head Chef at Kingham Hill School. He has always been the smiling face of the catering department, providing and serving up umpteen excellent meals throughout the day to the College family. He has always made ORs feel welcome and nothing was ever too much trouble. We will miss him muchly.



OBITUARIES

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

Roger Stebbing (1952-59) died 20th April 2018.



Roger's wife Joyce writes: Roger Frank Stebbing, PE of Signal Mountain and Hilton Head Island, passed away on Friday, 20th April 2018, at the Hilton Head Island Hospital, from complications following emergency surgery. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Frank Stebbing of Selsey, West Sussex, England. Roger was born in Wokingham, Berkshire, England where he spent his early childhood. He attended boarding school at Rendcomb College, in Gloucestershire where

he was known as Fred. Roger loved sports and played rugby, hockey, and cricket. In 1960 he joined ICI at Welwyn in Hertfordshire where he met his wife Joyce.

He attended Salford University and received a BSc. Honours degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1969 he joined The Pritchard Company in London and was later seconded to their office in Houston, then transferred to Pritchard Rhodes in Kansas City, MO. In 1975 they moved to Chattanooga, where he established his engineering company, Marlboro Enterprises, Inc. and served as President and Chief Executive Officer until 1999. He designed and built many LNG plants during this time and also operated the Chattanooga Gas Company, LNG Plant.

In 1985 he formed Stebbing & Associates, Inc., where he was president and chief executive officer in order to provide design and engineering services to the LNG industry worldwide. Since 1999, he has been the Cryogenic Specialist and lead consultant for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC, for LNG facilities in the USA. In 1993 he joined the board of directors for AL/TN Natural Gas Company, which later

became the Atrion Corporation; he served in many capacities, the last being lead independent director. His kindness was legendary, his quick wit, sparkling eyes, intelligence, tact, courage and humour have touched people all over the world; Roger never met a stranger. He loved repairing anything and everything, hence his nickname “Mr. Fixit”. His hobbies included fishing and boating. He was a past director of the Chattanooga Boys Choir. Roger is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joyce, sons: David and Peter (Tracey), grandchildren: Gavin, Eli, and Elizabeth (Charlie) Stebbing. Memorial services were held on Saturday, 5th May, at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 630 Mississippi Ave., Signal Mountain, USA.

Jack Hemming (1961-67) died 12th July 2018.

David Henshaw (1940-49) died 18th August 2018 aged 88.

Geoff Bye (1940-48) writes: David died in London on 18th August 2018 aged 88. He was predeceased by his elder brother John (1940-46), also a Rendcombian.

David and I were classmates at Rendcomb in our early school years. He and I were not close at school but became good friends later in life. My overseas postings were not conducive to maintaining relationships in the UK but as time progressed, I was a more regular visitor and began to meet David each time I was in the London area. This year, 2018, I tried to arrange our usual dinner for an October date only to find that he had sadly died in August. David made his career in the performing arts, principally dance. He had a brief stage career, appearing in television productions of the Canterbury Tales and the First Churchill’s.

Perhaps his first stage appearance was at Rendcomb when he and I ‘starred’ in a production of John Drinkwater’s play ‘X=0’, which I believe can be seen as a commentary on the futility of war, a sentiment shared by David. But his career was mainly in dance education and teaching. He studied the philosophy of dance at the London Institute of Dance. He spent a year studying at the Department of Performing Arts, American University in Washington DC. He lectured at the Bishop Lonsdale College, Derby. He became chairperson for Dance at Middlesex Poly and established the first British BA Performance Arts degree course. He was a dance and education consultant.

He was of a generation in which to be gay meant, as he put it, ‘leading a life resting on a lie’. He got a great deal of solace from the Quaker community, which he joined later in life. To quote him:



“In 2009 I was overpowered by the quiet clarity of Quaker thinking that led us to speaking in favour of same-sex marriage and equality. This cemented my sense of belonging. I understood then and know now, that the Quaker way is my way.”

He was very active in the Quakers. He was Assistant Clerk and a Trustee of the North West London Quakers and a member of the London Quaker Interfaith Group. As part of his activity he was arrested in 2017 for participating in a protest against the world's largest arms fair being held in London. He was outraged at Britain's hypocrisy in selling the weapons only to then see them being used to kill innocent civilians. David was 87 years old when arrested. The photograph is of him under arrest. A policeman is standing so as to make sure David does not flee in his chair! Truly a Rendcombian. The world is a worse place without him and my visits to London have lost some of their joy.

Mary Price (Staff 1973-85) died in April 2019, tributes to follow next year.

David White (Staff 1989-2004) died 8th December 2018.

David will be remembered by a wide spread not only of Rendcomb's former pupils and staff but also the wider community who came into contact with his music. David's immense energy and enthusiasm sustained him through lengthy and successful stays as Director of Music and as the Housemaster of the Junior House. He created a lasting impression on the fortunate choristers and musicians of all abilities who blossomed under his direction.



Amongst those ORs who attended his funeral were **Kim & Chryssa Taplin** (Staff 1997-2001), **Martin**

Graham (Staff 1987-2017), **Ralph Barnes** (1991-98), **Gill Day** (Music staff), **Lesley Vernon** (Music staff), **Steven Croft** (1987-95), **Philip Webb** (1992-95), **Peter & Mary Cairns** (Staff 1996-2018), **Julia Morris** (Music staff), **Tim Page, John & Patta Tolputt** (Headmaster 1987-99).

Those represented included: **David & Joan Hawkeswell** (Staff 1973-93), **Harry Aldwick-Blake** (1994-99), **Stephen Lea** (Staff 1988-97), **John Talbot** (1986-93), **Claire Germaine** (1990-93), **Denis & Mary Price** (Staff 1973-90), The **Gunner Family**.

Bobby Morgan (Deputy Head 1990-2007)

David's wife, **Judy**, writes: David was born in May 1944 in Canton, South China, now Guangzhou (pron. Gwangjoe) at Pok Oi hospital, (now Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hospital and said to be the best hospital in China). His parents were missionaries, mother a teacher, father a Methodist minister. They and their daughter Maureen (6 years older than David) were interned by the Japanese in November 1942, initially in two separate camps, but later the camps were brought together and David was the result. David, with Judy went to Guangzhou in December 2000, and found the hospital still there, surrounded

by enormous skyscrapers. The Pearl River, across which his pregnant mother had been taken for ante-natal visits and the Oi Kwan Hotel, where they were taken after liberation and given a rich meal which made them all sick (!), and the hospital were all in close proximity to one another. Only 5'1", he was small in stature, but a GREAT MAN. He inherited 'small' genes from his paternal grandmother, who was only 4'10" and possibly from his origins. His mother had been malnourished while pregnant. He did not suffer from 'small man syndrome' and could take a laugh against him. One of his favourite sayings was "I AM standing up." He was known for his energy and enthusiasm, and inspired many people, who quickly forgot his stature when dealing with him. His response to requests was usually positive and it was not unknown for him to fit four or five appointments into a day. He was of a gentle, kindly and sociable disposition. One of his greatest pleasures was being with people. He had the ability to approach and talk to anyone, from any walk of life, even youngsters. He was genuinely interested in people and was interested in what they had to say, even if their views differed greatly from his own.

He would often 'circulate' and included the excluded. Judy often felt abandoned at social functions as he was away 'gossiping' with people. He would never 'put anybody down' or lord it over them. People enjoyed being with him and he had lots of fans. He was always reliable and trustworthy in whatever he undertook and provided, often unrecognised, hidden support for the undertakings of others.

He laughed a lot. He could usually be located in a crowded room by his laugh. His telephone conversations were punctuated with laughter. At his interview for the job at Rendcomb College, he was asked what he would like for an epitaph. His reply was, "He laughed."

He did his first honours degree in music at Durham University under the great and eccentric Professor Hutchinson. He then undertook an Oxford Diploma in Education at Westminster College (a Methodist teacher training college.) He gained his performers' licentiate in piano playing from the Royal Academy in Music in 1970 with an unprecedented 98%. In retirement he gained a Masters degree in Theology from the University of Wales at Lampeter. He latterly undertook a Licensed Lay Ministers' course for the Church in Wales. He was licensed in July 2016. He was not an ambitious man and probably could have achieved great heights, but his modest personality prevented him from seeking higher positions.

He married Judy in September 1966. They had two children, Rebecca, born in 1970 and Daniel, born in 1972. It was a source of great unhappiness to

him that Becky has been estranged from them since 2002. They therefore did not see her two daughters grow up and he regretted, bitterly, that he never heard Milly, Becky's second daughter, who is apparently very musical, play her violin or accompany her. Judy became disabled in November 1995, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a rare autoimmune response to cancer, which has permanently damaged the cerebellum, the part of the brain that deals with balance and muscle coordination. She has been in a wheelchair since. David became a devoted carer. He was a consummate musician and learned the piano from two teachers who were themselves pupils of the great British pianist, Solomon. He put this musical talent to good use, beginning with conducting the choir at his father's church in Northampton, at the age of 16. Many choristers, including members of Calne Choral Society, Cirencester Choral Society and, latterly, Cantorion, his Llandrindod Wells choir, have enjoyed his energetic and reliable conducting in a multitude of exciting concerts, usually with full orchestra, which they will never forget. He was a really good programme planner, gauging the right length to send away audiences satisfied, but wanting more. He also enjoyed accompanying. Artists and audiences do not appreciate the skill and accommodating nuances that go into successful accompanying, let alone having to master some very difficult pieces. Since retirement he really enjoyed singing with Brecon Cathedral choir under the baton of somebody else. He said he would barrack from the back row, but became a trusted and reliable musician very popular with his fellow singers. He took over the baton during the interregnum between a conductor of forty years and the most recent conductor, and provided a useful buffer and time for bereavement, and earned the respect of his fellow choristers. He was a great and innovative teacher, often championing the cause and nurturing and encouraging the underdog. Pupils respected him for his depth of knowledge of his subject and fairness. He admired and appreciated the non-competitive values of Rendcomb College, his last teaching job. In his last nine years there, he became Junior Boys' housemaster, and ran a homely, disciplined house of which many boys and parents came to be indebted. The powers that be questioned his ability to run the House and be Director of Music, especially as Judy became disabled in their first term as house parents but he proved them wrong. He worked very hard, often more than 100 hours a week. He was a superlative orator. He could hold audiences spellbound, addressing them usually without notes. They went away wanting more. Latterly, he looked very comfortable in the pulpit. He was his father's son

and preached a wonderful sermon. He believed that sermons should be not only informative but challenging. He said he felt very comfortable in the milieu of preaching.

He bore his illness, the surgery and three bouts of chemotherapy with stoicism and fortitude. He never complained. He kept his illness ‘under wraps’ for as long as possible.

Judy has not only lost a husband, life partner and companion, but a generous and considerate lover, a kind and thoughtful carer, a wise person of many talents she could look up to and admire and rejoice in and her best and dearest friend.

The Church in Wales and the world will be poorer without him.

Rev’d Kim Taplin (Staff 1997-2001) writes: “Rendcomb is a Rutter-free zone!” These were the first words David spoke to me. I was a tentative and nervous future Chaplain of Rendcomb College and Priest-in-charge of the parish. I’d phoned David in July 1997, to request John Rutter’s anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth* for the Induction Service. Knowing how vital the relationship is between a Chaplain and the Director of Music, I was initially perturbed. But, by the end of the phone call, we were getting on like a house on fire! We shared ideas and laughed, just as we did for the following 20 years!

David was a giant of a man. He was creative, loud, loving, stubborn, passionate, energetic and a plethora of other adjectives, some delightfully paradoxical. Like so many of us gathered here today, I consider myself blessed to have known him and humbled that he considered me a friend.

David was a Duracell Bunny! (other battery brands are available!) He could go on and on! As a musician, teacher and Housemaster he seemed to have boundless energy. We often said that if the essence of D.B. White could be bottled it would be worth a fortune. David packed so much into each 24-hour period, and even well into his illness, he was making music, taking services and preaching.

David was also an imaginative and purposeful iconoclast! Not one to be risk averse, I remember that for one Advent Carol Service, he wanted to explore the transition from darkness to light in a totally new way. It wasn’t enough for the choir to move by stages from the western bell-tower of St. Peter’s Church to the sanctuary. Oh no! David masterminded a choral, torch procession from the main College building, through the pitch-black grounds ending up in the candlelit glory of the parish church. It was a logistical nightmare to prepare and not a little wacky... but David was right, it proved

to be spiritually-creative, memorable and moving! David couldn't bear arbitrary, box-ticking policies and procedures. He would question 'systems in place' that were designed merely for self-serving bureaucracy. For him, human beings and their genuine wellbeing were far more important. And rules should not be allowed to get in the way! David would burst the bubble of pomposity wherever he encountered it, because the Methodist in him nurtured a rare and thoroughgoing egalitarianism.

Notwithstanding his legendary energy and activity, David was also deeply reflective about life, people and the nature of goodness. He was a jester at court; unafraid to speak truth to power and with the personal humility to laugh at himself too. Don't misunderstand me; he was not a clown, for life was indeed a serious matter. But he understood and enjoyed the transformative, even redemptive power of laughter and humour. My wife, Chryssa, and I would meet up with David and Judy after our mutual paths led away from Rendcomb. We have never laughed as much in our lives as we did when we were in their company.

By the way, the Rendcomb choir did sing *For the Beauty of the Earth* at the new Chaplain's induction service. And of course, David put his heart and soul into it. Such was the nature and the stature of the man.

We're in the third week of Advent. And *Advent* reminds us that waiting is an active pursuit. It requires dedication, commitment and patience. It can be hard and tortuous work. It's not easy to wait for important test results or for the outcome of a job application. It's risky to wait and see whether your tentative "*I love you*" receives the response, "*...and I love you too.*" It takes courage to wait to discover if anti-depressants will kick in, or whether a course of chemotherapy has taken effect. To wait is to let go of our obsession for being in control of our lives; it's trusting yourself to something or someone else.

When a special person like David dies at the end of a painful illness, it's natural to feel angry. Angry at the unfairness of it all. Angry at God, if you believe in him. Angry at indiscriminate fate if you don't. That's understandable. It's human. It's interesting to note that, in the Bible, God appears to take our stinging criticism just as readily as he accepts our worship. On Tuesday, it's Christmas. And the Nativity story in the New Testament presents an intriguing picture of a God who doesn't sit in comfort, high up in the safety of the stand while humankind competes in the contest below. No, he comes down to the pitch-side. He puts on his boots and he joins in the game.

Christmas is about the Divine getting involved with humanity from the inside. In that animals' food trough, lay a deity who, for love's sake, took no short cut to understanding human nature. He took the risks encoded in human DNA. He risked the traumatic separation of birth, the experiments and accidents of childhood and the economic uncertainties of life as a peasant artisan. For him there would be no special protection from virus or violence, hunger or hatred, exhaustion or exclusion. Christmas, then, is not only about a deity of language and ideas, but also of sweat, tears, amniotic fluid and blood. Because of Christmas, we might just draw some comfort from the fact that God understands our pain at David's death, and he weeps with us in our loss.

David is now with his Lord, in that place where the old order of things has passed away. It's a place where there is no more death or mourning or crying or pain. But there will be music and laughter. Music and laughter which will echo across the ages! And I think we all know who'll be right at the centre of it!

Ralph Barnes (1991-98) writes: Quite simply David White was unique. A teacher who was inspiring, who had a great love for teaching and a tremendous passion for music. What was clearly evident when I first met him at the age of 11 was how much energy he had. As pupils we referred to him as the 'whirlwind' as he was just like that. You would always see him striding or walking quickly, never languid. He would briskly walk past the practice rooms, occasionally looking through the window to make sure that we were all practising feverishly. Suddenly he would breeze in and frighten you to death by exclaiming 'Right, what are we playing then?' Then he would sit there expressionless and you would be thinking, 'Does he like what I am playing or not?' Then after you had finished, he would quietly look at you and say, 'Now, how do you think you should play this music?' or 'What do you think the composer is asking you to do?'. It would certainly be a question that you were not expecting and I don't think he was in the habit of spoon-feeding his pupils either. He definitely wanted to make you think for yourself and understand why music was such a powerful and emotive subject yet at times complicated.

He realised how music could have such a direct influence on the young mind. I recall that in only our first lesson we were studying the dark opera of Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten. This was not happy music like an early Mozart or Haydn symphony, but sinister, foreboding music and sometimes quite terrifying. However, it certainly made an impact on the class and we

could not stop talking about the lesson all day. There were rows of CDs available to listen to and records that he had solely provided in the Music Department. He clearly wanted pupils to share his love for music. He was absolutely in his element when he was talking about Britten and I remember a lecture he gave in Rendcomb Church on the 'War Requiem'. We all sat there spellbound listening to this great orator explaining the culture and historical significance of this piece of music. He spoke so eloquently and passionately that I longed to hear a recording and thankfully in the Music Department there was one. I went to hear a live performance in Gloucester Cathedral in 2007.

I was very fortunate to spend seven very happy years working under David's tutelage and singing in the college choir. I will never forget Britten's Saint Nicholas Cantata and part 1 of Handel's Messiah where David offered me solos in both. There were the memorable evensong services in Bristol and Gloucester Cathedrals and the concerts that the choir performed in the Reading Room, Dulverton Hall, Rendcomb Church and Cirencester Parish Church. In later years David involved me in other events including Advent Carol Services, Haydn's Nelson Mass in Cirencester Parish Church and Howard Goodall's Requiem for Eternal Light in Powys in Wales.

David had a great relationship with Stephen Lea, our Deputy Head of Music who in contrast was relaxed and easy-going. However, the two of them were pivotal in the music-making sense. After Friday lunch the excitement of a choir rehearsal in the Reading Room was readily anticipated, especially when the choir were preparing for a large concert with orchestra and parents and friends were invited to come along and sing. What cherished memories! In front of a choir or orchestra David was dynamic and like a firework waiting to go off. His eccentricity and flamboyant conducting style was endearing and this completely mirrored his effervescent personality.

Watching him work was a complete joy as you could never take your eyes off him. Above all he would be doing his utmost to inspire his singers and instrumentalists to raise their game and he always produced an exciting and memorable performance for the audience.

Studying at Rendcomb was very special and I sincerely think that over the years I formed a close relationship with all my teachers but David truly made a lasting impact on my musical development. Many times, I would just like to sit and chat with him about my love of classical music.

In 1998 when I left Rendcomb I wanted to pursue my love of music and perhaps become a conductor or Music Director. I was inspired so much by David's teaching that I studied for a Drama, Theatre Studies and Music BA

Honours Degree in London. There I studied Choral Conducting and I sang in four choirs. After I graduated, I successfully gained the position of Music Director of The Wide Valley Singers and the next year was appointed Assistant Music Director of Churchdown Male Voice Choir. Since then I have conducted the Military Wives, Massed choirs in Gloucester Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey and am now Music Director of Churchdown Male Voice Choir. I have also conducted orchestras' brass and wind bands and competed in Music Festivals nationally as a tenor soloist and as a soloist/leading roles in Choral/Musical Theatre Societies throughout Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

I truly think that I would not have done any of this without David's inspirational teaching at Rendcomb and also the fantastic musical experiences that I encountered because of him throughout those seven years. He was a marvellous musician; a wonderful man and I feel very proud to have known him. My very best wishes to Judy and family.

Martin Griffiths (Staff 1984-2003) writes: It is with great fondness and respect that I write something of my ex-colleague and friend David White. I remember when David arrived at Rendcomb, driving an old Mini car decorated with Flower Power symbols, which he parked outside of the Arts Block with his trademark energy, fluency and panache. His natty goatee beard and colourful range of ties added extra artistry to the image. His energy and passion for music was evident. However, he also stood for more than just leading and developing a successful music department where everyone was encouraged to participate (including this tone-deaf Art teacher!). David also held strong views about protecting young people while giving them opportunities and responsibility and was prepared to be a strong voice against any form of bullying, in whatever form it raised its ugly head. His Housemaster role in Junior House and as a supportive colleague were in my experience both highly valued and appreciated.

David's sense of fun and engagement also took him into many other roles within school life beyond the music department. He gracefully agreed to play piano for me while I 'sang' at a French Theme Night and danced along with Rachel Houghton down the catwalk at the Love Fashion Show. He also performed a basketball routine alongside the considerably taller Mike Newby in another Fashion Show while wearing long, hand printed, music inspired shorts. There were multiple tears of laughter in the audience that night! If David agreed to take part and help with a project, he always did it

with commitment and energy. If he couldn't do it or if it wasn't for him, he just told you straight and wished you luck. We didn't always agree! However, he would always help me, especially with Red Nose Day and was behind the scenes a great supporter. Then, one time, when challenged by student Stephen Croft to shave off his beard for the charity David turned back to Stephen and said, 'If YOU raise £100, I'll shave it off in front of the whole school!' Stephen, being Stephen, raised the money and more, and David, with the whole school looking on incredulously, proceeded to shave off his beard. He looked ten years younger and as he took a theatrical, beardless bow the cheers of support from the Dulverton Hall audience was warm, generous and enormous.

What a wonderful man. I re-write this Adrian Mitchell poem about the musician Charlie Parker in tribute.

*David White was my delight,
He breathed in air
And he breathed out light.
David brought the light of enlightenment and music to all who knew him.
Including me.
I send my heartfelt best wishes to Dan and the family.*



Professor Maria Bitner-Glindzicz (1979-81)

26 June 1963 to 20 September 2018.

In September last year the Evening Standard's headline read that

“Pioneering geneticist Maria Bitner-Glindzicz had been killed in a cycling collision in Clerkenwell...”

The accident happened on a Wednesday morning. Four decades earlier, Maria and I would have been walking from Park House across to the Science labs in the Stable Block, chatting and relaxing into our new life. It would have been our second or third week at Rendcomb, both having moved schools for

a better A level science education than was typically available at the girl schools of the day. As can be seen from Maria's subsequent achievements, Rendcomb gave her that foundation, along with so much more through the warmth of its community and the friendships that we would make in the next 2 years.

“Girls in the Sixth Form” were no longer a novelty, but each cohort was eagerly anticipated and new friendships established quickly. In the class of 1979, Maria probably made one of the most striking first impressions; tall with long black hair and dark eyes, a scholarship in her pocket, parents in Hong Kong and that distinctive Polish name, she was bright, beautiful and exotic. We were destined to be a very happy year group and with her parents overseas, Rendcomb became a home away from home for Maria. This was not just a reflection of the friendships made but also her appreciation of the pastoral care of Mrs Holdaway and Mr & Mrs Price and the overall ethos of the school under Roger Medill's leadership.



Always hard working, she had a clear sense of vocation. She read medicine at UCL and her achievement of First Class Honours is celebrated in the 1987 entries on the Rendcomb academic awards boards. It was whilst taking a BSc as part of this training that she first became drawn to the emerging field of Genetics but before she could specialise, she had to complete her Junior Doctor training. The long hours were demanding but she never complained and indeed always looked for the positives that each rotation could give her. The most important being meeting her future husband, David Miles, a consultant oncologist whilst at Guy's Hospital. They were immediately and enduringly happy together and soon started a family. In the mid-1990s, Maria balanced family life and her work by returning to genetics, completing a PhD on the inheritance of deafness via the X Chromosome at the Institute of Child Health in 1996. Afterwards she became a Clinical Scientist splitting her time between the Institute of Child Health (later to become part of UCL) and treating children with hearing loss at Great Ormond Street Hospital. She was appointed Professor of Clinical and Molecular Genetics at UCL in 2012. Her specialism was Usher syndrome, an incurable genetic disorder that deprives its victims of both sight and hearing. She hoped her work would help to one day restore both. She made regular media appearances, where her ability to make the complex understandable and science human were valued qualities. She was though a realist and recognised the long-term nature of scientific research. She would advise her patients that the journey could be bumpy and her staff that the aim of research is to move forward, "we don't want to be where we are now in 20 years".

She played a key role in the 100,000 Genomes Project, launched by the Prime Minister in 2012, to identify the genetic origins of many cancers and rare diseases. She recognised that even though for many the prospect of a treatment or cure was going to be a much longer journey; the project offered an opportunity to provide valuable answers to the families who attended her clinics on the causes of their child's debilitating illnesses.

Compassion and understanding for her patients and their families was at the heart of her approach. She successfully advocated for clinical improvements for children with sight and hearing impairments. She also understood that the families, not just her patients, need more support and through Charity trusteeships, supported those affected by rare diseases by awarding modest grants in ways that would have a high impact for the recipient.

Throughout her life, she wore all her gifts lightly. It would never have occurred to her to do anything but to be the best that she could be, but she

did so with a sense fun. She championed diversity and inclusivity long before they became fashionable and actively supported women to succeed in science and medicine. At her funeral, the priest used the refrain “She did everything well” and there is no doubt Maria made a huge contribution through her work and would have continued to do so but for the tragedy of the accident. She was greatly loved and is much missed as a wife, mother, doctor, scientist, colleague, friend and Rendcombian.

She is survived by her husband David and their children Helena and Oliver, who to date have received over £40,000 in donations for the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Charity in her memory. Additional donations to GOSH can be made at justgiving.com/maria-bitner and this spring Helena is running the London Marathon for GOSH justgiving.com/helena-miles1.





In March 2019, Maria's friends from Rendcomb planted a young Cedar of Lebanon tree in front of College in her memory. Present on a windy but glorious sunny day were **Tom Paton, Will Wilkinson, Andy Harris, John Henniker-Gotley, Rob & Rebecca Webb née Norman, Mary Alexander, Lisa Dibble née Manners, Fiona Wilson, Fiona Barr née Wilson, Callum Dick and Francesca Fryer née Hughes**. The tree is not far from a mature cedar, with a commanding view over the Churn Valley. It will provide continuity and a lasting memorial to Maria. Thanks go to Brett Leese, Works Manager at the College for facilitating its planting.

FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Registered Charity No. 290373

Chairman: **Richard Wills**

Governor and Rendcomb College Trustee, appointed 2004

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

Jane Gunner *née Watson* (1975-77)

OR Society Honorary Secretary, former parent.

Colin Burden (Staff 1963-97)

Rob Jones (Headmaster 2015-) Ex Officio

Keith Winmill OR (1972-79)

Richard Law OR (1964-70)

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

Jessica Weston OR (1998-2005) OR Society Vice-chairman

The Friends of Rendcomb have continued to support both the College and students of the College throughout 2018-19 with donations as diverse as helping to support two students where family circumstances would have prevented them from an education at Rendcomb to a substantial donation towards refurbishment of the much used Astro Turf facility, assisting two student to partake in an educational and a sport overseas trip. Thanks to two very kind and generous benefactors of the charity the Friends have been able to give financial support to a student to join the Sixth Form to further their studies which would not have been possible without the kind and generous support of these two people.

Sadly, this year due to other commitments, **Patrick Boydell** (1988-95) is standing down from being a Trustee and we thank him for his work and commitment to the charity and hope that in time and when commitments permit, he may re-join as a Trustee. However, should anyone wish to join The Friends of Rendcomb Charity as a Trustee or would like to make a donation please do not hesitate to contact **Mark Naylor** (naylorm20@hotmail.com).

RENDCOMBIANA

Michael Dawson (1960-67) wrote: How nice too, to see old photos around my time at Rendcomb in the 2018 newsletter. And on page 59 there pictured are two of the people mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter. In the bottom left photo (of the new science lab) is **David Mabberley** in the middle of the

front row, and **Bob Edy** in the middle of the second row. He might even



A Lower school form in the new Chemistry Laboratory.

recognise himself...

*Front row: **Michael Dawson, David Mabblerley, Jeffrey Harris***

*Second row: **Bob Edy, Fraser Glennie.** Centre of third row: **John Marks***

Geoff Bye (1939-48) shares some of his memories of the pranks that were played in his day.

Parents day, either summer term 1947 or 1948. No parents visiting for me, but classmate TTW was visited by parents who arrived from Bristol on their 250cc BSA motorbike. While they were safely ensconced listening to enlightenment from the Head and other worthies, TWW suggested a ride. I had never ridden on a motorbike. Offer accepted and we went down the hill to the main road, TTW in charge. A little later he offered to teach me how to drive. What teenager would refuse? So I had my first motorbike experience thanks to Parents' Day. Helmets? What are they?

What better way to enjoy a thunderstorm complete with torrential rain, than to play shinty on the front asphalt? This was a tradition in my years.

Enormous fun.

One morning, the school was surprised to find the Head's 3-wheeler Morgan installed in the front hall, rather than being in its usual place outside under the porch. The Head was also surprised. Not least by the fact that the width of the vehicle seemed to be of greater than the width of the open doors.

Surprise quickly turned toward another emotion; culprits were sought. Of course, owning up to a prank such as this carries some risk of punitive damages but also the fame and glory associated with the deed.

So, ownership was taken and the car restored to its rightful place. I am not able to release the secret involved in solving the width problem. That died or will die, with the perpetrators.

At or about the same time observant people noticed something strange about the weather vane atop the tower. A chamber pot was poised on the spike.

This was the result of no mean feat and was the obvious precursor to the climbing wall now installed. Much safer than climbing the building.

Rumour has it that it was removed by gunfire rather than risk a student climbing for it. No bullet was recovered from the scene.

At the end of lunch one day the Head announced an assembly in Big School to take place immediately. A rare event, so somewhat foreboding. After the school was assembled and a tense few minutes were spent waiting for him to arrive, the Head strode in looking angry and flushed. His game face was on.

He announced (words have been paraphrased) that there was smoking going on, too much smoking. Did people think he was unobservant? He ordered everyone who was in possession of any smoking material to leave the room and bring it back at once. After a brief moment for that to sink in,

shamefaced boys began to drift away and then started coming back with their stuff. There were cigarettes, lighters, matches, cases, you name it, which began to pile up on the floor in front of the Head. And it was quite a pile. When the inflow of smoking stuff stopped, he proceeded to trample the pile into as many pieces as he could. The resulting mess was unceremoniously dumped into the bin. End of assembly.

(Aside: Ironical that the School was founded by the Wills family of Bristol tobacco fame).



ST. PETER'S CHURCH UPDATE

As I sit down to write a message to you Old Rendcombians the hail is beating at the windows and only yesterday we were basking in temperatures of 15 degrees.

While the weather is constantly changing and so it seems are the arguments for and against Brexit, the Church of St. Peter's has stood firm for hundreds of years and will continue to do so with our continued love and care. It is there for us in times of joy and sadness – a solid, sturdy building but with the door always unlocked to welcome us and give us time to think in this ever-changing busy world that we live in.

The PCC of Rendcomb, who have the duty to look after the Church in this moment of its history, have been busy this year. We are extremely lucky to have our current College chaplain, the Rev'd **Bob Edy** (1959-67, College Chaplain 2015-), who has spent a great deal of energy, together with a small sub-committee, on improving the heating in the Church. I am pleased to report that in the summer holidays cables were installed and late in the Autumn the heating panels in each pew were switched on. The difference is amazing – no longer does the heating have to be turned on 24 hours before a service and no longer does the congregation have to sit in their hats and gloves!

In order to fund this big outlay, we formed the Friends of St. Peter's. We appealed to locals and those further afield with a connection to the Church and the interest and response has been very encouraging. We are still left with much to do and know that it is only a matter of time before we have to do some major repairs to the roof.

We are trying to hold an event each month to include the wider community who do not necessarily want to come to regular church services. So far, this year we have had a successful coffee morning and an evening of leek soup and pancakes in the village hall to coincide with St. David's Day. By the time you have read this a Songs of Praise Service will have taken place and plans are well under way for a Pets Service – it will be important to ensure that the dogs don't decide that the rabbits are good for tea!

So, if you would like to help we would be extremely grateful. Please send donations to Annabel Purcell, The Old House, Rendcomb GL7 7EY or e-mail annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk and I can send you a Friends of Rendcomb form to set up a standing order. Do please come and visit us – the door is always open – always!

Annabel Purcell

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS



Vyvyan Rayner (1961-64) wrote that he has moved to the south of France and completed three trips this year to move all his things from Amsterdam. A round trip of 2,400 clicks.

John Gosden (1947-54) wrote: I was very pleased to read Bob Edy's article 2018 Newsletter, particularly his memories of his early days, when little had changed from DWLB's days; there were still only 90 boys, the uniform was lumber jacket and shorts (except for prefects who wore long trousers) and the Sunday suits of grey flannel, worn for the church service in St Peter's.

Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff 1976-2009) wrote thanking ORs who have asked after him and for the support he has received since Penny died. He added: A lot has happened since that time. Pippa got married in the Forest of Dean in August 2018 and is now Mrs Young; rather a coincidence given that her forename was inspired by **Pippa Young**. I also have a lovely granddaughter, Lily who is a delight to watch growing up.

I have given up setting and marking papers for Cambridge International after 36 years. It was **Denis Price** (Staff 1973-90) who introduced me to Southern Universities Joint Board in Bristol all those years ago and it proved to be very useful as a support to my teaching and as a supplementary interest and income after retiring from Rendcomb. I am doing more travelling now and it was wonderful to visit Rome and relate it to those superb Latin lessons given by **Bill White** (Staff 1961-97) in the 60s. I am

very fortunate to have rekindled a relationship with the person who was my first girlfriend when I was in the Fifth Form in 1969. Jill and I are living happily in Swindon, which brings back memories of the many Old Rectory trips in the 80s and 90s, ice skating at the Link Centre and swimming at the Oasis. We are looking forward to exploring UK and Europe in our new motorhome.

Last November **David Williams** (1966-71) and I, together with our partners, celebrated **Hartley Moore's** (1964-71) birthday when he was visiting UK from Thailand. He was given a miniature guitar as a memory of his guitar playing days in a Rendcomb band and his sister was able to produce the guitar he made in the workshop under the watchful eye of **Colin Burden** (Staff 1963-97).

Bridget Goldsmith (Staff 1988-2003) called to see us in February. She has now retired five times from teaching and currently volunteers with local charities as well as enjoying her gardening. She is also keeping her hand in by involving herself in plant surveys.



John Marland (1983-86) wrote to Jane: I have been in Manchester since graduating from Bristol Poly back in 1991. I'm currently the director of construction for the region's largest private landlord/developer, Bruntwood.

Birthday lunch in February for **Bill White**.

Left to right: Richard Gunner, Esther Morgan, Jill Leney, **Chris Wood**, **Bill White**, **Colin Burden**, **Bobby Morgan**, **Jane Gunner**, Dorothy Burden.

Married with two teenagers who are both now doing their A-levels/GCSEs. They seem to be working much harder than I ever remember – a lot easier when you don't have all the distractions of your mates in the next room, girlfriends, fag breaks, golf and even home brew! All experiences that showed me how to enjoy life.

Andrea Gellan *née Don* (1973-75) writes: After finishing Rendcomb, I ended up doing a PhD in chemistry at Dundee University where I met my husband, Alistair Gellan. I have three adult children and I'm now retired and enjoying doing marathons and Ironman triathlons (I think swimming in the unheated open-air pool at Rendcomb gave me my love of open water swimming). I also have my Level 2 swim coach and help out at the local swim club.

In her career she has been Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Forth Valley College, and has worked at W. L. Gore & Associates.

Martin Griffiths (Staff 1984-2003) is presently combining a new role as an examiner for the International Baccalaureate with painting and pottery which he sometimes exhibits in Cirencester's Brewery Arts.

Michael Dawson (1960-67) FRCGP is no longer working as a doctor, but is continuing as mentor and peer support.

Michael Miles (1943-50) wrote to Richard: Reading the last newsletter I was pleasantly surprised to catch up with news of ORs and staff of my vintage. Firstly, the tribute to **Major R. Hale** (1939-46). When I arrived at Rendcomb in 1943 Rudy (as we knew him) was the 1st eleven goalkeeper in the College soccer team and was a bit of a hero to the lower forms. Secondly the very interesting article on **Robert Wilson** (Staff 1934-44) brought back memories of him taking junior prep in Big School (then) and invariably falling asleep at his desk much to the amusement of us juniors. I remember him as being very affable and easily approachable by the younger pupils. Thirdly, the long article by **Geoff Bye** (1939-48) was of special interest.

Geoff and I both won scholarships to Rendcomb from our primary school in Barnwood, Gloucester. He was four years older than me and we did cross paths at school although he was considerably senior.

Both of my sons are ORs and are prospering in Europe. **Nick** works in Geneva in public relations. He is a member of the MCC so regularly pops across to Lords and customarily invites some of his classmates to join him, **Anthony** owns a prosperous bar in Ceaucé, Normandy and recently became a father for the first time as recorded in the Newsletter. My wife and I continue to live happily in Chipping Campden, which has a long history of providing Rendcombians.

Charlie Hannaford (Staff 1983-88) writes: We're returning to the UK after 20 years in France, this June. The year has been busy: I've been President of the Old Crypt Cricket Club, Gloucester and have completed a History of the Old Crypt School 1539-2018 to be published on Founders Day 2018.

Benn Knapp (1977-84) is still working for IBM in an internal role focusing on European Consulting work forces. He works a lot at home and travels abroad once a quarter. He still keeps up his tennis and enjoyed a trip to Barcelona with the International Club of Great Britain in May. He also plays Club tennis, although his opponents are often 30 years younger! Grace is reading Law at Exeter University and Olivia is in her final year at Oxford. She has been offered a fully funded place at Manchester University to study for a PhD in Supramolecular Chemistry.

Eric Blencowe (1976-83) has changed career and is now a professional counsellor. He has started a private practice in Bristol. He says it is a slow-burning business to start with. He still plays Bridge, being by far the youngest member of the 'afternoon set' at Bristol Bridge Club.

Ben Almond (1978-88) is involved in real estate and travels to the United States regularly. His son won his second national Judo title recently, a reward for 24 weekends of training. Ben is coaching and doing Judo regularly. Are there any other Old Rendcombians who keep up their Judo?

Nicholas Dakin (1962-68) wrote: I have moved to Malta, where my wife and I have owned an old townhouse (palazzo) in the Grand Harbour area for almost fifteen years. We are now seriously addressing its restoration. I retired from teaching English at St. Paul's Girls' School (London) in 2013. I was there 26 years. (Nicholas's father, Douglas, was one of the first twelve and was at the College from 1920 to 1926.)

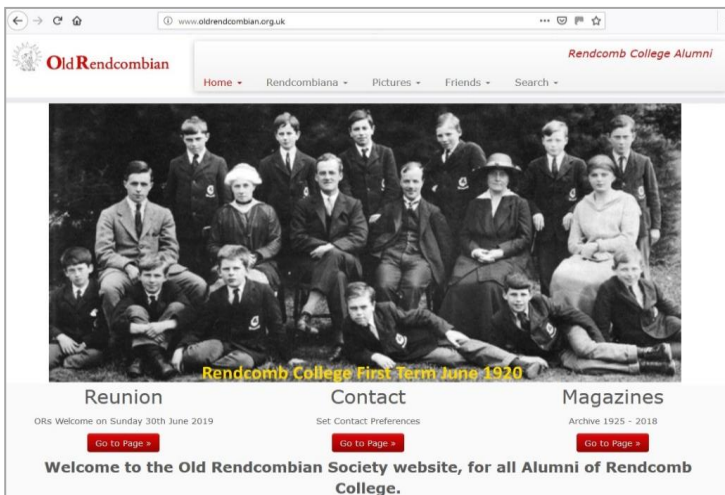
The newsletter: Some of 2018's team of envelope stuffers!

Left to right: Bob Edy, Richard Tudor, Colin Burden, Richard Wills, Bill White.



OR WEBSITE – oldrendcombian.org.uk

Over the last three years, the Old Rendcombian Society website has grown to 3GB of documents and photographs forming an extensive digital archive. We have all the Society Newsletters, College Magazines, Chronicles and Rendcombian publications in easily searchable form. The website continues to grow and is suited to laptop, tablet and even mobile phone viewing. The website has a site Search facility to help find names, events and other misty recollections. The mysteries of ‘Saul’s Toe’ and a ‘Wagger’ can be solved!



We continue to add memorabilia, photos and articles, so if you have anything you would like to share, please do get in touch.

We always publish dates of OR Reunions well in advance and additionally, details of other College events and sporting fixtures. ORs are encouraged to visit the site to update their communications preferences – even if contact details have not changed. No personal information is stored on the website and comments are very welcome.

OR Society Newsletters are available on the website following the annual distribution of the printed publication. The **Friends of Rendcomb College** charity has a dedicated area for details of its activities and information about how to make donations, as well as UK Gift Aid and Mandate forms. Mark Naylor has taken over from Colin Burden as executive trustee of the charity. **Nigel Powell** (1967-74) *webmaster@oldrendcombian.org.uk*

IN MEMORIAM

Last summer Jane was contacted by Dr Martin Lunghi, who wanted to track down news of **Graeme MacDonald Wilson** (1930-37) as he wished to republish some Japanese poetry which **Graeme** had translated some years ago. After some confusion Dr Lunghi eventually established that **Graeme** had died in 1992 but he managed to make contact with his family and they gave him permission to re-publish **Graeme**'s translations of the ancient Japanese poetry which he included in a small poetry collection available at www.toadwine.co.uk. called 'Ten Thousand Leaves – Poems from the Manyoshu'. Of the 125 poems in the book **Graeme** had translated 73 of them.

As a result of Dr Lunghi's interest in **Graeme Wilson**, it was discovered that **Graeme** has a Wikipedia page, which gives an account of his career. One of the links within it was to the 1981 OR newsletter in which **Graeme** had been wrongly cited as having received an MBE. He had in fact been awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) in the Queen's Birthday honours list 1975 as British Civil Aviation Representative in the Far East. Thanks to **Nigel Powell**, the on-line version of the newsletter now states the correct information.



Jane (1975-77) and **Sam Gunner** (1996-2003) with Sam's wife, Jess and baby, Libby, took part in Cirencester's record-breaking human poppy for Remembrance Day 2018. **Joe Watson** (1971-78) was also there.

Photograph © Eve Dunlop photography, by kind permission.

COLLEGE NEWS

The pace of life never lets up at Rendcomb, with 2018-19 being another year of change alongside some wonderful traditions.

From September we have implemented a new working week with the, much dreaded, Saturday lessons being absorbed into the Monday-Friday routine. A longer lesson length has allowed improved teaching and a more flexible day end has meant that busy families can pick up from 5pm until the late evening. Saturday mornings are now devoted to fixtures or a special boarding programme that includes outdoor education, academic enrichment and even cookery.

Thanks to the support of Trustees, Friends of Rendcomb and some parents we have also been able to continue our building development. The Griffin Theatre is in constant use, be it school productions, 'The Crucible' and 'Animal Farm' to the concert programme of both Rendcomb pupils and professional musicians. The Astroturf has been replaced with a brand new modern surface while the gym has been completely refurbished with the most modern 'performance' equipment to allow our new strength and conditioning coach to deliver the best support to our teams while also offering personal training to parents and Friends. Looking ahead, we will be opening the 'New Godman' Junior Co-Educational House in September with the Old Rectory being converted into what I like to think of as a 'state of the art Sixth Form Centre' in a historic setting by January.

Sport has really picked up this year under the new leadership of Matt Walton. Junior Rugby had one of their strongest seasons, the U15 girls' hockey went unbeaten until the final weekend and we currently have over twenty pupils with representative honours. Matt comes from a cricketing background so I also hope to see that reignited in the College over the course of the next few years.

There is considerable planning and preparation going into the various events for the Centenary Year and I do hope that you will come and join us for as many as possible with the Ball in July 2020 being a highlight.

While all these changes are exciting you will be pleased to know that Rendcomb still remains true to the Founder's vision of a holistic education with wonderful pastoral care. As I write I can hear the piano being played downstairs, pupils acting in short films for their English and in the distance a cheer as the Juniors beat their local rivals on the Astroturf. Our pupils are a pleasure and I know that you would be very pleased to see that, while Rendcomb moves with the times, we maintain the values and standards that make this school so special. **Rob Jones** (Headmaster 2015-)

BELL RINGING

Reading through past editions of the College magazine, it is interesting to note the intermittent phases of campanology which are woven into the life of the College and church. ORs who have been involved in the past, will be pleased to know that ringing is enjoying a revival – and is currently in good health! The fact that the church has heating, including heaters in the ringing area of the tower, has broadened the appeal of the activity.

We have been very fortunate in securing the services of Sarah Ewbank, along with her partner Cris, and two other local ringers, Peter Harris and Judy Carter. With such a strong team to guide us, two groups of students have enjoyed excellent tuition and made rapid progress – initially some sixth formers and now a group of eight Year 9 students who are doing very well. The Year 9 students were invited to ring the bells in Cirencester Church before the College Carol Service there, in December.

In addition to training College students, we have established an adult group, from the village community, which has started to ring before services. This has given the opportunity to two ORs, **Jane Gunner** *née Watson* (1975-77), and myself, to revive the skills which we developed, under Mary Bliss, many moons ago. The view of our instructors is that our previous training has been evident in giving us a head-start this time around, although Jane and I have not always been totally convinced about that!

We were pleased to join the national ringing ‘event’ on Remembrance Sunday, ringing with muffled bells, as a tribute to the dead, before the service and in a celebratory manner, at 12.30pm, to mark the armistice. As we make our return into the world of ‘plain hunting’ and ‘Bob Doubles’, members of our adult group are meeting some lovely people and enjoying visits to other towers.

I am sure that there are other ORs, who have allowed their ringing to lapse, but who have some space in their lives now. I would encourage you to contact your local tower – and give it another go!

Bob Edy (1959-67,
College Chaplain 2015-)



SAUL: The Wayward King

When the newsletter went to press last year, Saul was in transit to his new home, which with a fanfare of publicity across the pond turned out to be the North Carolina Museum of Art. Those of us who have cherished the existence of Saul over the years and saw him as the soul of the school, could only look on in sadness and disappointment that he had left us. Or that he was even allowed to, given that he had been placed in situ as the mansion was being completed.

Some of the more fanciful of us expected Saul to save himself, indeed he had in the past, simply by being too heavy to cross the floor of Saul's Hall. This time round he gave it a jolly good go as the College was struck by

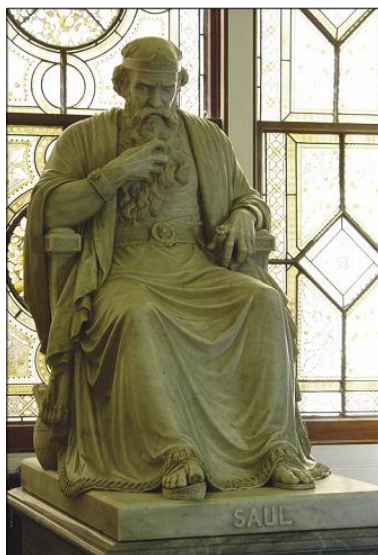


lightning when the sale was originally agreed and all the ceilings on the first-floor landing fell down. Shades of Macbeth saw other related events happen too but none were enough to stop the sale. It is therefore a huge consolation that John Coffey, of the North Carolina Museum of Art, is so delighted to have him and enters into our feelings entirely. You may have seen the appeal for photos of Saul, dressed up, through his time at the College. There are quite a few since 2000 but a dearth of earlier ones and the OR Society and John would very much like to have copies of any there

might be out there.

This familiar photo is from the 70s when the snooker table meant Saul was swivelled sideways. Sadly, the mechanism could not be saved. OR, the late **Michael Martin** (1926-33), put together a pamphlet about the history of Saul and that will soon be available on the website. John Coffey has kindly written the following article for the Newsletter:

Last July the North Carolina Museum of Art welcomed William Wetmore Story's long-lost masterpiece *Saul under the Influence of the Evil Spirit*. I say "long-lost" because, though generations of Rendcomb students and faculty held the statue in great affection, it was totally unknown to American art historians and curators. Its one moment of fame was in 1865 when it was featured in the International Exhibition in Dublin. (The Pope even paid for shipping *Saul* from the artist's studio in Rome to Ireland.) British and American critics cried "Hosanna!" but, after the celebrated statue was bought by Sir Francis Goldsmid and installed at his country house at Rendcomb, the statue faded from memory. By the twentieth century, American art historians presumed it lost.



Fast forward almost 150 years and across the pond. The North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh holds one of the finest art collections in the South Eastern United States. But the museum does not have a major American marble figure. For thirty years I have been looking for such a figure, but not just any figure. I wanted a sculpture that was technically masterful, and in good condition (not over cleaned or badly damaged). I also was determined to avoid any of the yawningly timid marble nudes: 19th century American sculptors had no rapport with undraped women. What I wanted was a marble figure with a forceful, memorable presence.

A few years ago, I was contacted by a New York art dealer specializing in American sculpture. Very *so sotto voce*, he told me that he had been contacted by a friend at Sotheby's in London who was representing an unnamed boarding school in England, and the school was looking to sell an important American sculpture. What sculpture? Story's *Saul*. Photos? See attached. Price? *gulp* Would we be interested? Yes, and again yes! To be honest, it wasn't that cute and simple. I found a donor who then backed out.

Then another donor stepped forward. There were so many parties to the deal that contract negotiations were slow and tortuous. Happily, all issues were finally resolved, and the king was crated and flown to Raleigh.

We are now in the process of cleaning the statue of decades of accumulated grime and fingerprints, as well as paint, crayon and pencil marks, tape and candle wax residue, etc., etc. and we will restore the missing toe. Our plan is to install the statue on its original base in November in the centre of a grand gallery surrounded by our finest European and American portraits.



Of course, North Carolina's gain is Rendcomb's loss, and I truly regret that. However, I trust that the money received by the school from the sale has been put to good use.

Let me conclude with a request: Saul's 150-year residence at Rendcomb is an important part of its story, and a part we want to honour. To that end, I invite Old Rendcombians to share with me with any photos of the statue – especially when tricked-out for parties – or memories illuminating Saul's place in the school community. Many thanks.

John W. Coffey

Deputy Director of Collections & Research,
and the Jim & Betty Becher Curator of American & Modern Art
North Carolina Museum of Art



Fifth Form Black & White Ball 2018



Ho, ho, ho!



Sweetastic!



Arabian Nights Charity Ball 2007

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT – 21st October 2018



Back row: Harri Kingsford (1999-2004), Jess Weston (1998-2005), Megan Hardie (2004-18), Alice Tredwell née Barefoot (1997-2004).

Front row: Imogen Meers (2007-10), Holly Phelps (2001-12), Alana Carpenter (2002-11).

On Sunday 21st October 2018, a team of OR Ladies entered the Dean Close Hockey Sixes for the third year running. In the group matches we played St. Edwards, Bloxham and Cheltenham College, and although some great hockey was played, we sadly came bottom of a strong group. We then lost to Pangbourne in a close playoff match. We'll cling on to our 0-0 draw with St. Edwards Oxford in the group stages who went on to win the tournament! The tournament was again really enjoyed by all who played. It was a great chance for different year groups to mix and have a run around, some not having played hockey for a number of years. Thank you to all the players for their commitment.

Special thanks again to chief supporter **Jane Gunner** (1975-77) and Hannah Boydell, Sarah Bell and Karen Coups for helping with kit. The Old Rendcombian Society has kindly agreed to fund a set of OR hockey shirts so we can look the part next year.



We have already signed up for next year's tournament on **Sunday 27th October 2019** – please e-mail **Jess Weston** (jess_weston@hotmail.com) if you would like to be involved.

COLLEGE LACROSSE TOUR REPORT

The OR Society Committee used some of the Travel Bursary money to support two pupils on the Lacrosse Tour 2018, who might otherwise not have been able to go.



Their report is as follows:

We set off on the evening of the 22nd October and drove through the early hours in our coach we would come to cherish over the next week – on arrival to the youth hostel about 15 hours later we channelled our restless legs into some pre-tour stretches then promptly crashing out and getting a long night's rest for our first game. After some exploring of the area, we prepared for our first game and approached it with clear heads, clear aims and huge smiles all around. Our first game was tough as we played much older, stronger players and although the scores didn't land on our side our teamwork was extremely impressive which set the tone for the whole tour. After a huge bowl of pasta at the Frankfurt Lacrosse Club we all slept soundly ready for our next matches.

The next day we headed into our second game with a better grasp of the new ten-side rules and more determination to give Frankfurt's club team a tough game. Our morning of recuperation set us up for a tenacious game where we all wanted the win. This attitude really shone through as our team

effortlessly intertwined on the pitch and we became one body fighting for the success we all wanted. We put up a tremendous fight led by our captain Emily Sharman and vices Anna Frost and Emily Musgrave who tirelessly encouraged the team to play their best while leading by example. The long, hard game left us with a hunger for more games to prove our determination and another bowl of pasta.

Our last game before the tournament we'd been anticipating was fast approaching and with some team talks with Mr & Mrs Coups and a much-needed kit wash we felt prepared to play our final practice match against Berlin Lacrosse Club. Our team came back even stronger and showed Berlin what Rendcomb was capable of and with our unwavering enthusiasm we were improving every game. Our younger team members dazzled and were a welcome addition to the team with some outstanding attacking from Kate Holloway, Penny Lister, Jemima Elwes and Anya Pereira.

The tournament was finally here and we were ready to prove ourselves to the many teams who had travelled to play. We were playing national teams like Belgium and the Czech Republic but showed our strength through our vigorous effort



and outstanding teamwork. We had several players unable to play from concussions, back pains and long term injuries including three of our key players but in true Rendcomb spirit we pulled together with some senior players taking the lead and raising team spirit and with Keize Francis's speed, Eve Harker's strong defensive decisions and Ella Lister's emphatic encouragement we still managed to play our best game.

The team walked away with a huge sense of achievement, some amazing memories and an experience we'll never forget. Many thanks must go to Mrs Coups for organising the trip, Mr Coups for his crucial advice, Miss Ratapana's constant support, Mr T's perpetual ability to make us smile and to the OR Society for helping making a dream reality.

Photographs of the travel bursary Lacrosse teams reproduced by kind permission of Roland Irlenbusch at fotoroland.de

OR LACROSSE – 30th March 2019



Back row: **Lucy Hollands** (2014-18), **Claire Farnham** (2011-18), **Chris Border**, **Rebecca Breare** (2008-18), **Megan Hardie** (2004-18), **Olivia Ellis** (2010-15),
Middle row: **Martina Bonassera** (2016-18), **Kathryn Rew** (2005-15). *Front row:*
Delia Rich (2001-11), **Alistair Sinfield** (2006-13), **Libby Round** (2006-11)



A really entertaining match, enjoyed by all involved; the heavy loss to the College did not reflect the energy and enthusiasm with which it was played!



OR HOCKEY– 30th March 2019



Back row: **Harley Phelps** (2002-09), **Bob Lamble** (2013-15), **Jack Pethick** (2006-13), **Rafael Suarez** (2011-18), **Alex Tatara-Mills** (2009-14), **Charlie Lamble** (2011-13), **Tobias Tatara-Mills** (2013-18), **Robert Sharman** (2010-18), **Tom Pethick** (2008-15), **Ed Thomason** (2005-10; Staff 2011-).

Front row: **Josh Thomas** (2001-13), **Oliver Baylis** (2011-13), **Sam Tushingham** (2009-16), **Tom Breare** (2010-18) **James Sinfield** (2009-16), **Alistair Sinfield** (2006-13), **Paddy Gilling** (2007-12), **Dan Geerah** (2007-12).





On a beautiful spring day more than 40 ORs turned out for the Hockey and Lacrosse reunion. The 1st XI started off the run of matches with a very hard-fought game which ended 2-0 up to the College. It was therefore a delight to see the enthusiasm with which the 2nd XI rushed onto the pitch after the Lacrosse match to even the honours. The ORs seconds won 3-0. A feature of the day was that there were five sets of siblings playing for the ORs. A great reunion, thanks to **Ed Thomason** and his helpers for making it happen.



LEAVER DESTINATIONS 2018

Boluwatife Ade-Onanuga	Gap year
Grace Balchin	Leeds Beckett University, International Relations
Martina Bonassera	Cardiff University, Biochemistry
Rebecca Breare	2019 entry
Jiacheng (Jason) Cao	Application to Shanghai University
William Chapman	Gap year, conditional offer for Exeter University
Jiyang (Andrew) Chen	Warwick University, Biochemistry
Alexander Dennett	Southampton University, Business Management
Eleni Dimopoulos	London South Bank University, Film Studies
James Duckworth	Oxford Brookes University, Business & Marketing
Clare Farnham	TBC
Henry Golesworthy	RAU, deferred entry
Alexander Green	Heriot-Watt University, Chemical Engineering
Megan Hardie	University of Winchester, Physiotherapy
Patrick Hofbeaur	TBC
Lucy Hollands	University of Exeter, Medicine
Yichen (Kristine) Hu	Warwick University, MORSE
Mary Huo	Gap year
Xiaojin (Janet) Jian	University of Essex, Economics
Sam Jones	Gap year
Sergey Letunov	TBC
Liancheng (Larry) Li	University of Manchester, Electronic Engineering
Alina Lisnenko	Goldsmiths, London, Arts Management
Viola Mignone	Edinburgh University, Music
Najya Mohammed	
Afique Abdullah	Keele University, Law
Madeleine Morgan	Gap year
James Nickson	University of Surrey, Sport & Exercise Science
Morgan-Morai Ogle	Oxford Brookes University, Psychology
Robert Sharman	Keele University, Computer Science
Ricardo Suarez	Bristol City College, Professional Photography
Louis Szopinski	Cardiff University, Biochemistry
Zhengyan (Stephen) Tan	Foundation Course
Tobias Tataara-Mills	Oxford Brookes University, Business & Management
Bob Thame	Swansea University, Business Management
Zhuoxin (Ada) Tian	Swansea University, Business Management
Joshua Timmis	Swansea University, Biochemistry
William Vaughan	2019 entry
Oliver Whichelo	Royal Holloway London, History & International Relations
Naiyou (Paul) Xu	University of Manchester, Genetics
Ruiqi (Ricky) Yu	University of Birmingham, Business Management
Yirong (Evelyn) Yu	University of Manchester, Computer Science
Xiaohan (Elena) Zhang	Newcastle University, Accountancy, Finance
Yibo (Nic) Zhu	University of Manchester, Electrical & Electronic Engineering

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

e-mail.....

Years at Rendcomb

Junior School.....

Senior School.....

Telephone Number.....

Please send to:

Jane Gunner

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

OR Society e-mail: secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk

Please indicate whether you are happy for information to be shared with the College and/or the Friends of Rendcomb.

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

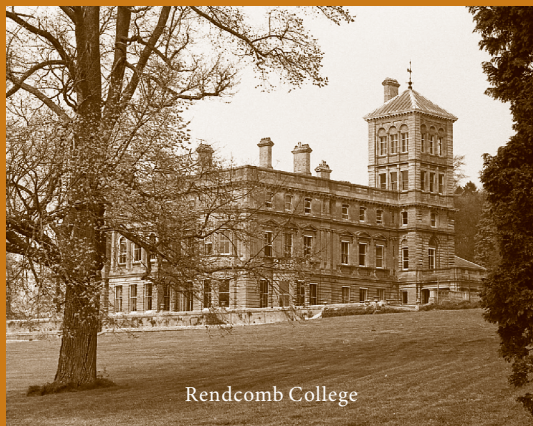
It only takes two minutes and the link can be found here:

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

Go “Paperless” by requesting your OR Newsletter by email notification.

The Friends of Rendcomb website link can be found here:

www.oldrendcombian.org.uk/friends/



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY
oldrendcombian.org.uk