



OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY

.....

NEWSLETTER

2025

51st Edition

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secretary@oldrendcombian.org.uk indicating whether you are happy for this information to be shared with the College and/or the Friends of Rendcomb. Alternatively, by post to: the secretary, Jane Gunner at the address overleaf.

Name

Address Postcode

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Years at Rendcomb: Junior School..... Senior School

Digital Edition 2025

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OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWSLETTER

Society Officers

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23rd June 2024 the following officers were elected:

President:	Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff:1976-2009)
Chairman:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff:1994-2023)
Vice-Chairman:	Jessica Weston (1998-2005) Ladies' Sport: e-mail: jess_weston@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA Tel: 01285 658627 e-mail: jane@r2g2.co.uk
Treasurer:	Claire Germaine (1990-93)
School representative:	Edward Thomason (2005-10, Staff:2011-) Gentlemen's Sport and College: e-mail: thomasonE@rendcombcollge.org.uk
Committee Members:	Nigel Powell (1966-74) Iain Whittaker (1980-87) Hamish Wilson (1971-78) Richard Tudor (1973-80) Bob Edy (1959-67, Staff:2015-23) Amanda Brealy (Staff:1994-2023)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)
Newsletter:	Amanda Brealy (Staff:1994-2023) e-mail: ORnews1920@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Richard Tudor (1973-80) e-mail: rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk
Editorial support	Nigel Powell (1966-74)

The Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society held on Sunday 23rd June 2024

Room E1, Rendcomb College

Present: **Richard Tudor** (1973-1980), **Chris Wood** (1965-1971; Staff 1976-2009), **Bob Edy** (1959-1967; Staff 2015-2023), **Mark Naylor** (Staff 1998-2017), **Jane Gunner** (1975-1977), **Nigel Powell** (1966-1974), **Claire Germaine** (1990-1993), **Des Knox** (1970-75), **Robert Sherratt** (1968-76), **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78), **Brian Fisher** (1966-73), **Will Edwards** (1975-78), **Joe Watson** (1971-78), **Kathy Foley** (née Harman 1972-74), **Jonathan Fletcher** (1968-75), **Chris Pulford** (1970-77).

1. Apologies: **Iain Whittaker** (1980-87), **Neil Lumby** (1968-1973), **Delia Rich** (2001-2011), **Jess Weston** (1998-2005), **Rob Jones** (Head of College 2015-), **David Williams** (1966-1971), **Alex Brealy** (1980-87; Staff 1994-2023), **Amanda Brealy** (Staff 1994-2023), **Julian Comrie** (1946-54).

In the absence of the Chairman, **Richard Tudor** chaired the meeting.

2. The minutes of the 90th AGM held virtually on 25th June 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising out of the Minutes:

There were no matters arising out of the minutes.

4. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report:

Claire Germaine gave her report. Current balances gave a total of £20,443.95 of which £260 remains of the **Colin Hitchcock** fund.

Nigel Powell requested that the latter should be reserved to cover the cost of future hosting of the OR website, which was now 10 times the size from when Colin Hitchcock established it. **Nigel Powell** had been looking after the website for the last 8 years and would put forward some options for a way forward. It was agreed that the money would be allocated.

The printing cost of the newsletter was down, both because it had been reduced to 48 pages to try and reduce the postage cost and because the printers had given a credit of £400 off because of an almost invisible error on the front cover. Unfortunately, the booklet

when in the envelope with labels, stickers and stamps had crossed the 100gram weight limit and had to be designated a large letter. This tripled the postage cost; however, some savings were made because there are now fewer booklets sent out (990), some stamps left over from last year and some heritage stamps were made available. It was a complicated process and Stratton Post Office had kindly franked many of the envelopes which had insufficient stamps on them so some people received newsletters with an array of stamps on them. While the balance in the account is healthy, it is noted that catering costs for the Summer Reunion are on the rise. Last year it was £16/head, this year the quote was £22.50/head. ORs had been requested to make a donation of £10/head this time but the College was in the process of taking catering back in house and it was not known how this would affect costs.

Shop sales were up, as were donations. Some money was coming in towards the cost of the Toposcope in memory of **Bill White** and support may also be coming from the Friends of Rendcomb.

David Williams had researched card readers and it was agreed to purchase one at a cost of approximately. £100.

The accounts were agreed, proposed by **Rob Sherratt** and seconded by **Chris Wood** and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Claire for an excellent report.

5. OR Bursary:

The Committee recommended that the bursary level remained at £1,500 and this was agreed, proposed by **Rob Sherratt** and seconded by **Des Knox**. The broadening of the scope of the bursary had seen an increase in applications including funding for tennis coaching and cricket tours. While there was no intention of over-spending, the budget for this year was already allocated so the meeting gave the committee some flexibility if a deserving application came along.

6. Any other business:

Mark Naylor updated the meeting on the Friends of Rendcomb. The trust is supporting 2 students enabling them to continue their education at Rendcomb for which the families are very grateful. At the Head's suggestion a new sports trophy is being commissioned, which will be dedicated to the memory of **Colin Burden**. This was well received because, as a result of COVID, it had not been possible

to do a suitable commemoration for Colin. Colin's family will be invited to the College when the trophy is presented.

In the absence of the Head, **Richard Tudor** read out his report:

The College is currently enjoying a great reputation locally and internationally with excellent exam results, awards and high parental and pupil satisfaction. We continue to focus on an individual education where every pupil is valued and has their space. Character education remains at the heart of College with the values of being thoughtful, adventurous and ambitious at the heart of all we do. Our music and drama are highly respected and we enjoyed sell-out audiences for Oliver! earlier this year. Old Rendcombians are always welcome and encouraged to purchase tickets for future productions. We now run 12 sports with Hockey and Lacrosse being highly regarded. We had a particularly successful Year 10 group who were unbeaten in Hockey and Football in the Lent Term while the girls reached the national finals for Lacrosse.

The Labour Party's VAT on fees is challenging both school and parents but we have been working hard to minimise the impact if/when it comes. If any ORs hold influence in political circles please feel free to point out that we are not all like Eton and this policy will affect schools like Rendcomb that work hard to open their doors to all types of families – not just the rich elites as suggested by Sir Keir and his colleagues. But then ORs know this well!!

We are looking ahead and have set up a number of small development projects that we hope parents, ORs and the Foundation will support. I am mindful that this is not a day to ask for money so details of this will follow.

We are also looking to working more closely with the Friends of Rendcomb and the OR Society to help both in our joint ambitions to raise funds and also provide support for OR networks and events. I am sorry that I cannot be with you today but family matters make this impossible at present. I wish you all a great day in the care of the OR Society.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm with a vote of thanks to the College.

A G E N D A

You are invited to the 92nd AGM of the Old Rendcombian Society Sunday 22nd June 2025 in E1 at Rendcomb College at 12.15pm

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive the minutes of the 91st A.G.M. held on 23rd June 2024
3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive Hon. Treasurer's report
5. OR Bursary
6. Liaison through a working party with the College and Friends of Rendcomb
7. Any other business
8. Vote of thanks to the host

OR DAY TIMINGS – SUNDAY 22nd June 2025

All ORs welcome along with their families

11.00 a.m.	Coffee in Clock Hall
12 noon	Pay Bar
12:15 p.m.	AGM in Room E1
1:00 p.m.	Hot Lunch including vegetarian option for all visitors. Main course to be collected from the Servery. Suggested donation £10/head
2:30 p.m.	Tours of the buildings
4:00 p.m.	Tea in Reading Room

OR DAY – SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 2024

The AGM was well attended and followed the regular format. A significant change was for ORs to make a contribution towards the cost of the lunch and preferably say in advance if they wish to attend on the Reunion Day. *Please note that at all other times of the year, ORs are required to contact the College for permission in advance, before setting foot anywhere on College grounds.*



Back Row L to R: **Jade Sinclair** (1972-78) **Deborah Harrison, Danielle Shrimpton, Jon Fletcher** (1968-75), **Hamish Wilson, Charlie Hussey** (1974-76), **Brian Fisher** (1965-71), **Rob Sheratt** (1969-76), **Chris Pulford** (1970-77), **Jane Gunner** (née Watson 1975-77), **Joe Watson, Nigel Powell** (1966-74).

Middle Row L to R: **Nige Taylor, Des Knox** (1968-75), **Tim Parfit, Pete Haynes** (1972-78), **Gray Moore** (1971-78), **Anthony Flambard, Nick Longworth** (1970-77).

Front Row L to R: **Charlotte Bonardi, Chris Troughton, Taryn Nixon** (1975-77), **Treve Evans, Sarah Morris, Kathy Harmon** (1972-74), **Pen Jones.**

All undated: Men: 1971-78 and Women 1976-78.

OR REUNION: COMMEMORATION BENCH



After a generous pasta lunch, a bench was dedicated to the memory of five ORs from the Class of '78 who sadly have died in the intervening years. This was prompted by the recent death in March 2024 of **Sheila Lee** (née Greenfield).

The bench can be found on the terrace below the library and bears the legend 'To Borrow Freedom', the title of Sheila's memoir about setting up a riding retreat in Portugal. The dedication ceremony was led by **Hamish Wilson**. Hamish, alongside **Deborah Harrison, Danielle**

Shrimpton, Anthony Flambard and Treve Evans spoke about each of the dedicatees: **Alison White, Anthony Reynolds, Colin Hitchcock, Will Henniker-Gotley and Sheila Lee**. The ceremony closed with Hamish reading a poem 'To Borrow Freedom' (printed below) which he'd written to mark the occasion.

To Borrow Freedom

*We look out down the valley to our youth,
time was fooled back then but now it's borrowed.
This simple, slatted bench brings home the truth,
our yesterdays outnumber our tomorrows.*

*We think back now to fallen friends, the five,
Alison, Sheila, Ant, Colin and Will,
remember them and mark their briefer lives
with a place to sit and contemplate the world.*

*We share a bond of friendship that extends
beyond our schooldays, share easy rapport
as if we were more family than friends.
We shall not meet these brothers, sisters more
but though we mark their passing, heads inclined,
we hold them always in our hearts and mind.*

Hamish Wilson



L to R (Standing) **Tim Parfit, Nige Taylor, Jade Sinclair, Hamish Wilson, Gray Moore, Chris Troughton, Anthony Flambard, Joe Watson, Treve Evans, Pete Haynes.**

L to R (Seated) **Sarah Robins (née Morris), Danielle Shrimpton, Pen Jones, Deborah Harrison, Charlotte Bonardi.**

Charlie Hussey (1974-76) noted, “At this year’s OR day, 15 of ’78ers gathered and contributed to a bench, in memoriam for the six of their class who have lost their lives in the intervening years, with the catalyst being the recent death of Sheila Greenfield. The sun shone, lovely memories shared and some wonderful speeches were made full of sadness and laughter. The inscription ‘To borrow freedom’ is from Sheila’s book. A specific decision was made not to have a plaque. I suspect and I hope other years may do something similar.”

THE NEWSLETTER

Please send us all your news, reunions, first class degrees, births, engagements, marriages etc. (Please include any photos of you, as well as any other ORs, with names and years you were at Rendcomb.)

Amanda Brealy (Staff:1994-2023): ORnews1920@gmail.com

Richard Tudor (1973-80): rictudor706@yahoo.co.uk

RENDCOMB COLLEGE NEWS

Annual update from the Head of College



It has been yet another busy year at Rendcomb. Last summer, we enjoyed very successful exam results with nearly all pupils gaining places at their first choice university. Always wanting to be better, we have focused on challenge and progress this year and have been using the excellent work of James Thompson and his 'Learning Pit' as a way to develop pupil resilience. While academic progress is key, Rendcomb continues

to focus on a holistic education and opportunities abound to develop self-confidence and other skills in music, drama and sports. Challenge also came in the form of last summer's Greece Trip, where pupils worked with a charity that helped injured turtles, cleaned beaches and worked on a project for the homeless in Athens.

It is not however, just about how the pupils develop but also how they support others. Pupils in years 7, 8, 9 all complete a Rendcomb Award and then progress to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold. As always, we had a healthy number attend Buckingham Palace in the autumn. Pupils also serve in other ways with seniors mentoring younger pupils, running activities and even tutor groups, ensuring that the 'Rendcomb Family' remains alive and well.

This year we have seen ever more ORs return to help with careers events and university preparation. I am extremely grateful to all who have given their precious time and encourage others to get in touch with the College Careers teacher, Mrs Michaela Deering if you would like to help.

Looking beyond Rendcomb's fields, the world beyond seems increasingly chaotic, making the College an oasis of calm for pupils to grow and develop. We do not, however, exist unscathed by external events. ORs will be aware that VAT has been added to school fees and this has impacted many of our families who make big sacrifices to send pupils to us. Sadly, the current government does not see the value in independent education, the way we change pupils' lives, the jobs we create and the communities we

support. I will write no more than to say that this divisive policy is hurting normal families and not helping our state school colleagues. Finally, I wanted to add that this will be my tenth and last OR Newsletter as I have decided to step down from Headship this summer. I will be heading south and back to the classroom (part-time) and hopefully some volunteering. The Governors have employed Andy Murphy, currently Senior Deputy at Stamford Endowed School and together we have been working hard to ensure the smoothest of transitions. I know that he is keen to work with the OR Society and continue the positive partnership with the College.

I finish by adding my thanks to all the ORs who have supported me and my family over the last ten years and wish you all well 'where the light leads'.

Rob Jones (Head of College:2015-2025)

Farewell to Rob Jones

In August this year, Rob Jones will leave after 10 years as Head of College at Rendcomb: during that time he has fulfilled all aspects of the role so well and achieved so much.

It is perhaps not always recognised what is demanded of a Head: a teacher becomes at a stroke the Chief Executive of a multi-faceted business;

running that business successfully requires a wide range of skills. Rob clearly had those skills; he used and developed them to become an outstanding Head. We all know that Rendcomb is a very special place; the school has always had a genuine holistic ethos that marks it out from other schools. Rob entirely appreciates this, ensuring that every pupil really is treated as an individual. This approach proved invaluable halfway through Rob's tenure (yes, it was 5 years ago) when Covid struck. Rob led and guided Rendcomb through that extraordinary time in an exemplary manner, ensuring that pupils continued, in extremely difficult circumstances, to receive the education they needed whilst being cared for exceptionally. This approach, which was achieved immediately when the epidemic struck, was the envy of many in the educational sector, who soon tried to mirror Rendcomb's approach.



When Covid receded, Rob led the school back to a more normal way of operating: the school's reputation grew and grew; numbers continued to increase. But Rob was always looking at all angles and new ways in which to continue the school's improvement in so many areas; he is continuing that process as I write. The role of Head is never straightforward, the path never straight, and circumstances are for ever strewn that path with unexpected boulders: the latest one is the imposition of VAT on fees; Rob ensured that the school started to address this significant issue very early on, as a result of which Rendcomb was as well-prepared as possible when the tax was imposed earlier than expected.

The role of Head can be lonely; it is therefore very important for the holder of that post to have support from family. Rob could not have been more fortunate in having the fantastic support of Pippa, who has really been not only a great help and encouragement to Rob but has also made her own incredibly valuable contribution to the life of the College.

All those involved with Rendcomb will miss Rob enormously, but his legacy will be a constant reminder of him. We wish Rob, Pippa, Max and Sienna every happiness and success in their futures.

Nicholas Ford (Chair of Governors:2017-)

Welcome to Andy Murphy, the new Head of College.



The new Head of College at Rendcomb College has been announced for September 2025. The Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of **Andy Murphy** to be the tenth Head of College at Rendcomb College from September 2025.

He will be joining the College from Stamford School, Lincolnshire, where he has worked since 2014, most recently as the Senior Deputy Head.

Raised in Scotland and attending The University of Edinburgh to study Biology, Mr Murphy then ventured south to The University of Oxford where he attained a Masters in Science as well as his teaching PGCE qualification.

He worked in Marketing for Guinness and then for Heineken before making the move to Teaching. He has worked in education for 18 years at Felsted, Stowe and Stamford, and has gained great experience in both boarding and day environments, in small and large schools. Andy is a firm believer in continued professional development and recently completed his National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH).

Of his appointment, Mr Murphy said:

“I am absolutely delighted to be joining Rendcomb College in September 2025. I genuinely enjoyed the rigorous interview process, and it was an honour to meet so many students, staff, parents and governors throughout. I walked away feeling very confident that this is a great school and the perfect size to get to know everyone in the school community.



The Cotswolds is an idyllic place to live, and I cannot wait to fully immerse myself and my family into life here.”

Mr Murphy is married to Gabi, who is also a marketeer turned teacher. They have two children, Fletcher and Aurora, alongside their golden retriever, Holly, completing the family.

Mr Murphy loves all sports and still plays cricket, rugby, hockey and football at every opportunity. He is a keen cross-country runner, with several marathons under his belt, and is looking forward to taking on the Cotswold countryside!

Chairman of the Governors, Nicholas Ford, comments:

“We are delighted to have selected Andy Murphy as the next Head of College at Rendcomb. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the independent schools' sector and has all the skills necessary to lead the College into its next chapter, building on the great work of his predecessor Rob Jones. We look forward to welcoming Andy to Rendcomb College in September and introducing him to our wonderful school community”.

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES



Frances Burden (1995-2002) PhD, Doctor of Philosophy in Genetics, University of Kent.



Rebecca Breare (2008-18) Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Science with First Class Honours (BVMSci (Hons) MRCVS) after studying for 5 years at the University of Surrey.



Mia Endicott (2018-21) First Class BA (Hons) Musical Theatre, Arts Educational School, City University of London.



Miriam Fielding (2016-20) First Class BA (Hons) History, Oxford Brooks University. She also received two awards: The Braudel Dissertation Award in History and the Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in History.



Anna Frost (2013-20) Distinction in LLM (SQE1&2) Masters of Law in Legal Professional Practice, University of Law, Bristol.

BIRTHS



To **Louise** (née Bowen 1999-2004) and Louis **Rickman**, a son, Samuel James born February 2025, a brother for Rex Matthew, born January 2022. Both boys were born on their due dates, both weighing 9lbs and 55cm in length and delivered by the same midwife!



MARRIAGES

Hamish Wilson (1971-78) married Rebecca Nouchette at St John's the Baptist Church, Garsdale, Cumbria on July 27th, 2024.



It was followed by a marquee reception at their home where best man, **Andy Maconochie** (1971-78) made a most entertaining speech enjoyed by all, including the following members of the **Class of 1978: Julie Alesworth, Charlotte Bonardi, Kerry-Jane Crowhurst, Treve Evans, Anthony Flambard, Deborah Harrison, Pen Jones, Tim Parfit, Ian Pengelly, Jade Sinclair, Nigel Taylor, Chris Troughton and Joe Watson.**

Olivia Ellis (2010-15) married Rich Hine on the 17th August 2024 at St Lawrence Church, Sandhurst. They had the reception at Rich's parents' home in Norton, Gloucester. "It was just the best day EVER!"



Many of ORs were in attendance at **Olivia** & Rich's wedding - so instead of 'Where's Wally?' here is 'Where are the ORs?'



ORs in attendance: **Florence Price** (2008-15) (Maid of Honour), Olivia's brothers **Harry & Max Ellis** (2002-09), **Rafael Suarez** (2008-16), **Ricardo Suarez** (2011-18) Sylvia & Gaby Suarez, **Max Newman** (2013-15), **Brodie Ash** (2008-15) **Tom Pethick** (2008-15) **Dan Thomas** (2008-15), **Lizzie Templeton** (2008-15), **Livi Witts** (2008-15), **Rozy Baynham** (2004-15), **Kathryn Maltz** (née Rew 2005-15), **Lauren Kraven** (2006-15) **Amelia Kell** (née Brady 2003-15).

Amelia Brady (2003-15) married Alex Kell on 22nd November 2024. They had a ceremony at Highnam Church, in Gloucester and the reception and party at Elmore Court.



Amelia's OR bridesmaids; Elizabeth Templeton (2008-15)
and Rozy Baynham (2004-15).



OR guests included Amelia's brother;
Oliver Brady (2004-09).



Olivia Hine (née Ellis 2010-15)
Lauren Kraven (2006-15),
Kathryn Maltz (née Rew 2005-15),
Florence Price (2008-15).

OR parents included; **Helen and Dave Brittain (Henry (2004-09) James (2001-10) and Grace Brittain's Mum and Dad), Jackie Tarleton (Sarah Chapman (née Tarleton 2001-11) and Paddy Tarleton's (2007-12) Mum), Roger and Angela Baynham (Rozy 2004-14) and Lance Baynham's (2003-13) Mum and Dad).**



OR BURSARY REPORT – MEGAN STENNETT (2022-24)



I have always had a passion for tennis, from playing to coaching, and it has always been something that I have enjoyed. I was kindly offered a bursary from the OR society, which enabled me to qualify to become a tennis coach. The LTA Level 1 Tennis Coaching Qualification was spread over two days, a month apart from one another, with online exams in between. I achieved a Distinction in this course, which was something I worked extremely hard to accomplish. The course enabled me to gain a finer understanding of

safeguarding in tennis, tactical, technical, physical and mental development frameworks, communication, organisation and differentiation skills for group coaching. Learning these new skills has helped me enormously with my tennis coaching, not only building confidence but broadening my understanding of many aspects of the sport.

I met many like-minded people during the course and the leaders were very enthusiastic. I particularly enjoyed learning all of the mini-games that I now use when coaching younger children. The safeguarding side of the course opened my eyes to issues that occur within tennis, and I am so appreciative that I have now been trained to recognise, respond, refer and record concerns within a tennis environment. I believe this is an imperative part of the training as it has often been overlooked in the past.

My LTA Level 1 Tennis Coaching Qualification has enabled me to spend my summer coaching many children and even start doing some one-to-one lessons. I recently started at Exeter University and this qualification has enabled me to get a job coaching students here at Exeter, which has not only provided me with an income but also has helped me make so many new friends. I have gained huge credit within the tennis department here at Exeter, as a 'first year' coaching many older students, which has enabled me to make new connections and put myself forward for opportunities that would not have transpired if I had not had this qualification.

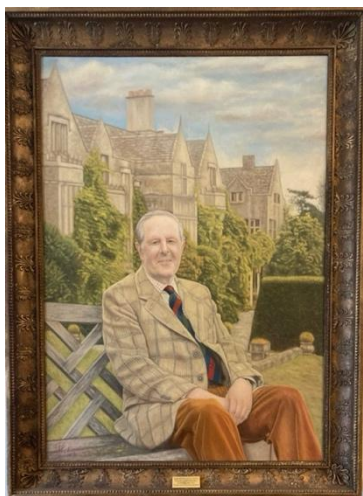
Looking to the future, I would love to be able to complete my LTA Level 2 Coaching Qualification as my desire to learn more about the coaching side of tennis continues to grow. I would like to take this occasion to thank the Old Rendcombian Society for providing me with this opportunity and I will forever be grateful to them for helping me gain a deeper understanding and insight into a sport which I am very passionate about.

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.

Obituaries can also be found on the Old Rendcombian website:
oldrendcombian.org.uk/serviceeulogies

Major Tom Wills LVO DL (Governor and Rendcomb College Trustee:1965-2015).



(The photo of Major Tom's portrait which hangs above the fireplace in the College's Library was kindly taken by **Linda Bakker** (Staff:2018-))

Tom Wills, who has died aged 83, was a man of duty, tradition, and quiet determination. A landowner, forester, and collector of English watercolours, he spent 14 years in the Coldstream Guards before dedicating himself to his Gloucestershire community. Courteous and self-effacing, his gentle demeanour concealed a resilient spirit that overcame challenges with persistence rather than volume.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, during WWII, Tom and his twin brother, Freddie, were evacuated to South Africa with their mother, Mary Margaret "Mamie" Mitford, while their father, Michael, fought with the Coldstream Guards. Michael was killed in action in 1943, leaving Mamie a widow with three sons. Returning to England in 1945, Tom was educated at Abberley Hall and Eton, where he excelled in rowing and spent summers fishing in Ross-shire, deepening his lifelong connection to the Highlands. In 1959, Tom joined the Coldstream Guards, thriving in military life with his characteristic sense of style, humour, and camaraderie. As Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, he led with patience and wisdom rather than severity. He played polo for the Regiment, having been taught by Irish Olympic rider Colonel Joe Dudgeon, and served in Aden during the 1965 Emergency, arriving impeccably dressed despite the war zone. His only complaint while deployed was the late arrival of Horse and Hound!

Leaving the Army in 1973, he embraced his role as custodian of Miserden Estate in Gloucestershire. Passionate about forestry, he replanted beech woods and established an arboretum. He was an active member of the Royal Forestry Society and the International Dendrology Society, once ruefully joking about losing a forestry award to the Duke of Cornwall's estate. Dedicated to conservation, he implemented a biomass heating system for the village.

Tom gave tirelessly to young people and his community. He served for 50 years as a trustee, as well of Chair of Trustees at Rendcomb College. He never missed a Founder's Day over those 50 years. Staff, governors and trustees and pupils will always be grateful for his enduring interest and support of the College.

He was Chairman and later President of the Gloucestershire Scout Council and District Commissioner of the Cotswold Hunt Pony Club. His charitable support extended to Gloucester Cathedral Choir, Barnardo's, and local youth initiatives. Appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire in 1982, he became High Sheriff in 1985 and later served as a Yeoman of the Guard, earning a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO).

Cancer was his long battle, faced with characteristic humour and resilience. Even in his final weeks, he joked about his health with friends, displaying his indomitable spirit.

Tom married Penelope Howard-Baker in 1982; their marriage ended amicably in 1992. He is survived by his two brothers, two half-sisters, two children, and three grandchildren.

A true gentleman of a bygone era, 'Major Tom' lived a life of service, tradition, and quiet strength, leaving an enduring legacy in Gloucestershire and beyond.

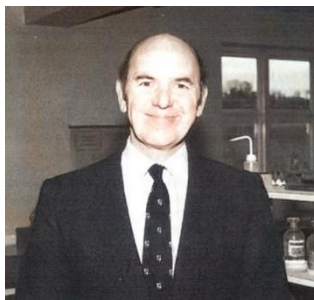
Jonny Morris (1978-85) passed away suddenly on 31st May 2024, aged 56.

On leaving Rendcomb, Jonny went to Merton College, Oxford and then on to the University of Reading where we met. He became a local councillor and bookseller with Waterstones, which then took us to Plymouth, where he represented the Southway ward on Plymouth City Council.

Unfortunately, Jonny's health failed in recent years due to a combination of issues; he remained well read, well informed and stubborn to the end. Although we divorced a few years ago, we remained friends and I miss him daily -Tracey Lenthall.



Ron Kelsey (Staff:1969-95)



Ron Kelsey died peacefully in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, on Tuesday 3rd September 2024, after a long illness. He will be missed dearly by his wife Joyce and his three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Ron was born in Cheadle, Cheshire in 1942 and read Chemistry at the University of Sheffield, followed by postgraduate teacher training at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He began his teaching career at Shrewsbury School, Shropshire and married

Joyce, his childhood sweetheart in 1964.

In 1969 he replaced **Ron Caves** as Senior Chemistry Master at Rendcomb College and maintained Chemistry as a high-profile subject. His teaching style was thorough and interesting with emphasis placed on laboratory work. He supported A level teaching with industrial visits, inspiring many, including myself, to read Chemistry at university. I recall being encouraged to make a sample of Monastral Blue dye in my free time and being given extra coaching in preparation for Oxford College interviews. A link with ICI allowed students to work in research laboratories before embarking on their university degrees. I experienced this at ICI Pharmaceuticals and gained invaluable practical skills for university and teaching. The fine Chemistry results and the consistent number of Oxbridge entrants speak for themselves. Ron also coached rugby with great enthusiasm and took on the role of Head of Careers, which he carried out effectively for 25 years.

A great coup for him was arranging a display by the Red Arrows in front of the school as part of the RAF recruiting campaign. Many will also remember the Business and Stockpiler games in which a large number of schools competed and Rendcomb did consistently well in these. As well as being a strict but fair teacher, Ron had a good sense of fun and his costumes for Christmas parties and Comic Relief Day were legendary.

In 1976 Ron's assistant, **Steve Jackson**, moved on and I was offered his position. Thanks to Ron, I accumulated many tips for teaching Chemistry and realised the importance of practicals that work for motivating pupils. Later on when I wrote a practical course to support the OCR AS and A levels, I incorporated many of Ron's ideas into the exercises.

Ron did examining work for the Cambridge board (now OCR) and the Welsh board (WJEC). It was a testament to his ability that he was

invited to write a booklet for the A level Chemical Engineering and Industrial Processes option and I know how much he enjoyed doing that as well as writing Ethanoic Acid, a Case Study. In addition, he became a Chief Examiner for the WJEC. It was most appropriate that he took over the mantle of Head of Science from Chris Swaine. Certainly his lasting contribution to the Chemistry Department is the extension of the department by completing the corner of Stable Block and creating a large light laboratory.

Ron and Joyce lived in the Old School House at the bottom of Rendcomb hill with their three lovely daughters, Helena, Ruth and Jenny. Ron loved the challenge of gardening and home improvement projects so it was no surprise that he renovated a property in France and when Ron retired in 1995 he and Joyce settled in Chedworth and built an oak-framed barn, entering their produce in the local horticultural show and helping in the community in many ways.

Music and theatre played an important part in Ron's life and he must have been so proud of his daughters playing in orchestras and singing in choirs. He never stopped learning and studied for a mathematics and a history degree just for fun.

In 2014, Ron and Joyce moved to Shropshire to be nearer to family. Sadly in 2020 he was diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a very debilitating brain disease. Ron and Joyce were able to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary together shortly before he died.

Ron will be remembered as a real family and community man who used his academic abilities well and happily shared them effectively with his pupils.

Chris Wood (1965-71, Staff:1976-2009)

A service of thanksgiving took place at St. Andrew's Church, Chedworth. Old Rendcombians who attended were:

Jane Gunner (1975-77) representing The Old Rendcombian Society: **Chris and Mrs Jill Wood** (1965-71; Staff 1976-2009), **Hamish Wilson** (1971-78), **Dr Tessa Hicks** (1974-76), **Alex and Amanda Brealy** (1980-1987; Staff 1994-2023), **Nigel Powell** (1966-74), **Diane Martin** (1975-77).

Attendees: **Joe Watson** (1971-78), **Roy Edwards** (1972-79), **Rob Sherratt** (1969-74), **Des Knox** (1970-75), **Richard Funnell** (1973-80).

Sir Torquil Norman CBE, (Chairman of the Governors:1985-1992)
Founder of Bluebird Toys, aircraft enthusiast and arts philanthropist and owner of Far Park, died 19th March 2025, aged 91.

Sheila Lee (née Greenfield 1976-1978) 20th March, 1961 – 17th March, 2024.

Our dear friend Sheila passed away last March, just three days short of her 63rd birthday, after succumbing to a particularly aggressive cancer, which she battled bravely to the end. She leaves her devoted husband Robert and loving children, Nicole and Aran, whom she loved so much and was so proud of. Our thoughts continue to be with them, as well as with her brother, Sven.

Sheila was one of the most wonderful people I have ever had the privilege of knowing – I am sure all of her great friends, of whom she had so many, would say the same. Sheila had the most incredible aura, was gentle, kind, had great wisdom and exceptional emotional intelligence, even at a young age. She gave great counsel and would always be there for you.

I remember the first time I met her when the girls joined our year in the September following the long, hot summer of 1976. I was immediately drawn by her charismatic charm and her mischievous smile. We had an instant connection, which started an incredible friendship that endured for forty-eight years.

Sheila, who had Irish and Swedish parents, had been brought up and educated in Portugal. She came from there to Rendcomb with **Danielle Shrimpton da Luz**, both being fluent Portuguese speakers, they would often chat away, pretty much assured we wouldn't know what they were saying! As I recall, it was mainly followed by smiles and laughter - at whose expense, we never knew!

Horses were Sheila's passion, and she would spend many afternoons riding horses in the fields around Rendcomb. In later years, she would go through further training in Germany, before settling back in Portugal and marrying Robert. They bought an ancient and run-down farm in a remote area of the region's nature park and worked to transform it into a popular lifestyle hotel—a horseback rider's paradise. Such was its appeal that The New York Times wrote a feature on it. She even coached Antonio Banderas there in preparation for his role in the film "The House of the Spirits".

Sheila and Robert hosted several OR friends there over the years, including my family.

Sheila and Robert then moved to Ireland in the early 2010s, where she continued to enjoy horse-riding, but also devoted her time to family. They lived in Dublin, but also spent time at the family's retreat in Achill.

She was a proud supporter of Irish rugby. WhatsApp messages between us would run hot during the men's Six Nations, especially when her Ireland were playing my Wales. Indeed, our last exchange was a week before she

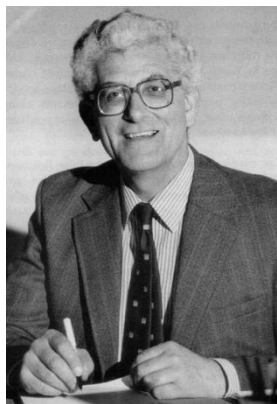
died, when England had scraped a victory over Ireland. She conceded that England had just about deserved it. We also agreed to arrange the next of our regular calls that week. Sadly, that call never came.

Sheila and I had always kept in touch from when we left school, and although we were unable to meet up much, we often wrote to each other. The class of '78's thirtieth reunion in 2008 was attended by an incredible thirty of our year. I collected a very excited Sheila from the airport. That event was a catalyst for regular reunions of our year. Sheila was in her element at these events. The friendships she had forged at Rendcomb, and especially the strong bonds in our year group meant so much to her. After the blight of Covid, we hadn't had such a gathering for a while, but in the summer of 2023, **Tony Flambard** (1971-1978) and **Pen Jones** (1976-1978) (who got back together and married after the 30 year reunion), hosted twenty of our year for a weekend. This was made all the more special because Sheila had made the Herculean effort to come. She had been determined to make it, and we were all so delighted to see her. Despite her illness, it was so good to see her look so very happy amongst people she so loved and who so loved her. She was buzzing for weeks afterwards in our calls and messages.

Sheila will be sorely missed, and it is so cruel that she was taken too soon. I will never forget her love and friendship, a legacy she has left to so many people. Her legacy also lives on in the written word. For several years, she wrote her memoirs, and not long before she died, her book went for publishing. In *"To Borrow Freedom: Riding Down a Dream on the Coast of Portugal"*, Sheila writes about the life, adventure and challenges of starting and developing a successful business, which attracted many horse-riding enthusiasts from around the world.

On the terrace below the main building at Rendcomb, the Class of '78 dedicated a bench in the summer of 2024 to those in our year no longer with us: **Alison White, Anthony Reynolds, Colin Hitchcock, William Henniker-Gotley** and **Sheila**. Inscribed in the bench, which overlooks the fields where Sheila galloped joyfully on horseback as a Rendcomb student, are her words "...to borrow freedom..."

When I go back to the school, I will sit there to admire the views, reflect on those words and to think about Sheila and the wonderful person she was. Sheila loved her time at Rendcomb; that piece of history of hers, which gave her such great and lasting friendships. We, in turn, are truly blessed to have had Sheila in our lives. **Treve Evans** (1971-78).



David Vaisey, CBE (1945-54) (Governor of Rendcomb College in the 1990s), died on 8th January 2025, aged 89.

David Vaisey, born in Tetbury in 1935. He was awarded a scholarship to Rendcomb College in 1945 and he was the first in his family to attend university. After National Service with the Glosters and King's African Rifles in Kenya, he studied Modern History at Exeter College, Oxford. He began his career as an archivist in Staffordshire before joining the Bodleian Library in 1963 where he became Librarian until retiring in 1996. In 2017, he founded the David

Vaisey Trust to promote literacy in Gloucestershire. His lifelong friend Alan Bennett presented the first prize and later gifted his literary estate to the Bodleian, honouring Vaisey's dedication to preserving literary heritage.

John Tolpuitt (Headmaster: (1987-99) wrote in the 1997 Rendcombian on David Vaisey's retirement from the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

"Rendcomb is unusual in having only one Old Rendcombian Governor, and David Vaisey is the exact opposite of the image that the phrase 'Old Boy' conjures up. He does not hanker after the old days or bemoan the many changes that have taken place since his time. The tributes paid to him on his retirement from possibly the most important Library in the world all mention the influence Rendcomb had on him in his formative years. When I knew I was coming to Rendcomb, I went to see David Vaisey at the Bodleian to pick his brains: he gave me his typically friendly and unpretentious welcome and the impression that he had all the time in the world (only an impression: the job of Bodleian Librarian carries with it a punishing schedule of travel, fundraising, committee work, people management, and the ultimate responsibility for finding space for the torrent of books published each year). He stretched his long body in an armchair and started to talk about how his family were agricultural labourers, his father a gardener, and how his County scholarship to Rendcomb pitched him into a different world: "the books and games and fellowship were all new to me, and magical", he said, his eyes glistening. Up to that moment, I had thought of Rendcomb as just another school, a job you applied for. From then on, I was hooked - and still am. Last term he visited the College to talk in Church, and he spoke about what Rendcomb meant to him. He

spoke about the privilege he felt in having been here, and the responsibility that rests on those of us who have shared that privilege. It was a moving talk in the gentle Gloucestershire burr which has stayed with him throughout his working life in Oxford and elsewhere. Everyone here wishes him great happiness on his retirement.”

Jane Gunner (1975-77) writes about David Vaisey: It is difficult to find the words to describe just how lovely a man he was, very generous with his time and very approachable. When we had an auction of promises some years ago he donated a behind the scenes visit to the Bodleian which Richard and I were lucky enough to go on. **Colin Burden** was always hopeful that David would be able to get his friend the playwright, Alan Bennett to visit the College but it was never to be.

Major Dr. Nicholas Rodney Hammond Evans (Nick) (1965-70).

Geoff Hunt (Father to **William** (1992-97) and **Phillipa Hunt** (1994-99) and husband to **Sister Judy Hunt** (Staff:1993-2010) writes:

Nick, who attended Rendcomb in the 60's and was, I seem to remember, known to **Chris Wood** who was a contemporary. I know he was also well known to **Bill White** who, I think, was possibly his housemaster at some stage. He and I were friends for exactly 50 years, being contemporaries and serving in the same infantry regiment - The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire. He read History at Durham and was always most engaged in matters of military history.

During his 20 years Regular Army Service he served in UK, Norway and Germany; he also somehow managed to wangle a season with the British Antarctic Survey where he managed to fall into a crevasse. History doesn't recall who came off worse in the encounter, but knowing Nick I suspect the crevasse did! As a Reservist, he also did a tour as a staff officer during the Balkans 'unpleasantness' in the 90s. After retiring from the Regular Army in the 90s, he gained a doctorate in History from King's College London. For the past 4 years, he was resident at the Royal British Legion care home - Dunkirk Memorial House - in Bishops Lydiard (outside Taunton), where he was somewhat restricted by limited mobility. His condition suddenly deteriorated rapidly in the last couple of months and he died peacefully in his sleep on the evening of Monday 6th January 2025.

Bill Knox (1973-78), brother of **Des Knox** (1970-75), sadly died 21st June 2024. He is survived by his wife, Dubravka.

Martin Richards (1946-54) born 4th February 1935, died 24th July 2024, aged 89.

Julian Comrie (1946-54) writes: Martin and I first met at Rendcomb in September 1946, two of the six new boys that year, shortly to become only five. We became lifelong friends. He was Best Man at my wedding to Helen (née James), at St Peter's church in 1959, when we both started our professional careers. Martin, thoroughly Welsh, inherited his father's and grandfather's solicitor's practice in Llanelly, which he managed until retirement in about 2000.

His interests outside the Law were artistic – he was an excellent pianist, and sketches, drawings, paintings, and pictures in any medium emanated from his studio, then often onward to exhibitions and galleries.

He married Sue Powell in 1963, and they had three sons who all survive him. Martin and Sue moved to a small village near Hereford in early 2000, where Martin was able to indulge in art, but he suffered ill health for a few of his last years.

Michael Grant (1962-67)



It is with great sadness that I record the recent death, in France, of my lifelong friend, Michael Grant, aged 75.

September, 1962 . . . and a new school. The afternoon sun was streaming through the windows of the Library, where there was a reception for new boys and their parents. The broad vista of the Churn Valley was spread below, half in shadow, half a radiant green

. . .

Not wholly inauspicious!

Mike and I were joining Rendcomb in Form III, as part of the new 12/13+ entry. Gloucestershire was new to us too: Mike was from an Army family, recently stationed in Malta, while I was a Londoner (albeit the son of an OR). Together we made our first tentative steps and adjusted to that intimate yet idiosyncratic small school. The bond remained – such bonds do – and became a lifelong friendship.

We of course went our separate ways after A levels. Mike was certainly ready to embrace a wider world – which, thanks to his father's posting behind the Iron Curtain as military attaché to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, came almost at once in the form of the Prague Spring of 1968! His direct experience of a politically militant Central European youth culture was not only eye-opening and formative but also truly liberating.

Mike ‘discovered’ himself in a way that Rendcomb had never made possible. He even developed a strong interest in Slavonic languages and a liking for Czech Pilsner!

He was remarkably imaginative, thoughtful and sensitive. He was hugely talented. Fine Art therefore, was far more his ‘thing’ than the conventional degree which claimed most of us. How well I recall his painting of a Prague street scene – remarkably accomplished and mature for a boy of his age – that hung on the wall of his parents’ living room for over fifty years! And then his later work: etchings and engravings to illustrate literary and historical themes like *Paradise Lost*, the life of John Milton and the *Thousand-and-One Nights*. Mike attended, first, the Central School of Art and Design, and later Birkbeck College at the University of London, and finally Liverpool Polytechnic.

He taught in a Jewish School in North London, and then – his life’s work – taught English in Paris. He also developed an extraordinary facility in both business and technical French! The fruit of this was a substantial textbook, *L’Anglais des affaires* (Livre de Poche 1991). It is also a sign of his remarkable versatility that he was a published translator of French poetry: Yves Bonnefoy (1923-2016) and – no less! – the 19th century symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé. I imagine the late David Sells – who taught us French – losing his customary aplomb on that one!

It was also in France that Mike met and subsequently married Almaze. His first-hand knowledge of her long-suffering country – Ethiopia – was probably unique for someone with his background (he even learnt Amharic prior to visiting Almaze’s family in Addis Ababa).

Mike was something of a Renaissance man – a modern polymath. No one at Rendcomb could have foretold this later interest in science and technology! In his last years, he hoped to live long enough to see the completion of the ‘Juice’ mission to the moons of Jupiter. But sadly, it was not to be.

His passing does indeed seem very premature. Mike fought metastasised prostate cancer with great courage and optimism, but failed in the end to win through. It is tragic indeed that he did not get to enjoy, after Paris, a long period of retirement with Almaze.

We of the 1960s generation have probably left very few, if any, tangible signs of our ever having been at Rendcomb. In fact, it tends to work the other way: we take the school with us on our respective life-journeys. Yet ironically part of Mike remains at Rendcomb – certainly it was there the last time I visited, some while before Covid. His ‘memorial’, if I can use such a word, is the Big School Italianate ceiling that he and I restored and painted c.1965 as part of PW (‘Public Works’ . . . Rendcomb’s 1920s ‘pacifist’

answer to a Combined Cadet Force). Shades of the Sistine Chapel, with headmaster Anthony Quick cast, improbably, in the role of Pope Julius II? If the ceiling is still there as Mike left it, I hope visitors will look up and perhaps ponder. Mike's wonderful parents have long since departed, but he is survived by Jo, his loving younger sister. I am sure I am not alone in offering her, and of course Almaze, our profound sorrow and deepest condolences.

Nicholas Dakin (1962-68).

Pearl Hardy (Staff:1991-2013).



Pearl June Hardy

30th June 1947 - 4th February 2025

Pearl was a cherished member of the Catering Team at Rendcomb College, where she served with unwavering dedication from 1991 until her retirement in 2013. Together with her husband, Jim, Pearl was well-liked by both students and staff. Their commitment to the college was evident in their actions, such as when they lived in Woodmancote and braved the snow, walking to work to ensure the students were well cared for. Sadly, Pearl lost her battle with illness on 4th February 2025, and she and Jim are now together again. Their combined service to Rendcomb College spanned an impressive 46 years, and their hard work and dedication were recognised when they retired together to enjoy more time with each other. Pearl's legacy of devotion and care remains an enduring part of the College's history.

Mark Naylor (Staff:1995-2018).

Peter Evans (1963-67) died March 2024.

Michael Horton (1954-57) died 2024.

Anthony Peter Hayes (1949-57) died March 2025.

Ian Patterson (Staff:1991-2002) died 3rd February 2025



Ian, who was born in Birkenhead, Merseyside, in 1957. He graduated as a scientist at Lancaster Polytechnic, Coventry in 1980 and then transferred to West Midlands College of H.E. to train as a teacher.

After graduating he became a teacher at Rushey Mead School, Leicester where he taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In 1988 he moved to Ramsey Abbey School, Cambridgeshire, where he focused on teaching Physics.

In 1991 he started at Rendcomb College, teaching ICT and Physics. Ian loved working in Rendcomb and enjoyed the pastoral care side of the work, particularly during his time in Junior House. It was with great sadness for the whole family when we left Rendcomb in 2002.

Ian went on to teach in various schools in Lincolnshire. In 2006 he started working as a supply teacher so he could spend time developing his Life Coaching skills. He became an e-mentor of NQTs as part of the Starting Out programme. He also found that once he had been working as a supply teacher in a school, they would put him on a long-term contract. The schools realised they had found a good teacher and wanted to keep him. From 2008 to 2013, he worked in Lincoln Christ's Hospital School teaching Science and Mathematics. His final school before retiring was De Aston School, Market Rasen.

From 2014 Ian also worked on photography and developed his knowledge and skills as a printmaker. He concentrated on photographing churches and industrial buildings but printing them using a modern take on Victorian photogravure techniques. He went on to produce intaglio prints and exhibited in a gallery in Horncastle, at PATA in Lodz, Poland; Green Door Print Studios in Derbyshire, Kiev, Ukraine and various local libraries in Lincolnshire. As a printmaker, Ian creatively used science and technology to produce abstract images.

Ian was a born teacher and he spent time passing on his skills to others outside of work. He mentored people through coursework and examination even during his last illness. He was a font of information and generally he could find an answer for most things.

His other passion was music and he became a skilled percussionist on the African djembe, Moroccan darbuka and bodhran. Ian played for twenty

years in the Alford Acoustic Club accompanying many singers and musicians. He also played in various groups, the last of which was The Coffee Club with Cameron Love. You can find them on Facebook where you can see Ian playing the djembe.

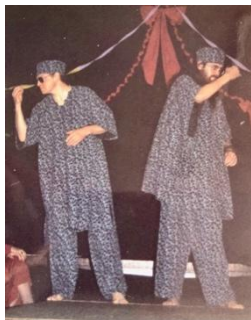
Ian did everything with enthusiasm and positivity. He faced his battle with cancer in the same way, despite being diagnosed with three different cancers in three years he fought bravely. Unfortunately, an unexpected infection led to him being in hospital for most of January. However, he wanted to come home to our newly rebuilt house and he passed away on 3rd February with his family around him.

Ian is survived by his wife Yvonne, whom he met at Lancaster Polytechnic in 1979 and their son, Ashley, who is following in his dad's footsteps and is an artist and printmaker.

We all have fond memories of our time in Rendcomb and the wonderful staff and students.

Yvonne Patterson

Martin Griffiths (Staff:1982-2003) writes:



What made Ian such a good teacher is also what made him such a good man. It was his underlying empathy for those who required help and support as well as information, which would enable them to move forward, to open new doors and gain greater understanding. Being a good teacher isn't really about schemes of work, pass rates or your position in an institution; it's about caring and Ian did that a lot!

He was also a protector for those who felt bullied;

Ian understood the value of human decency, kindness and support. He not only supported pupils, he supported staff as well and was a willing participant in fundraising events including Red Nose Day, fashion shows and charity theme nights where he could demonstrate his passion for music and performance. On one infamous occasion, he agreed to dress up as a glamorous Spanish señorita with a fan, long black wig, full make up and a red dress that was very tight and a little too revealing! Ian typically threw himself



into the part, danced his unique version of a flamenco dancer amongst the diners and afterwards told me, with a smile, that his bum had been pinched by one of the male diners!

Ian my friend, you were a star. May you find a place in the heavens!

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Burden, wife of **Colin Burden** (Staff:1963-97) presented in March 2025 the Colin Burden Sports Day Trophy, in memory of Colin to **Rob Jones**, (Head of College:2015-) and **Karen Coups**, Head of PE and Games coach (Staff:2004-).



PILOT PETE'S FLYING LEGACY

On the morning of Sunday 25th June 2023, **Peter Gregory** (2009-16) 'Pilot Pete' took one last flight, doing what he loved. He tragically died in a hot air balloon accident in Ombersley, near Worcester; he was only 25 years old. In 25 years, Peter accomplished more than most manage in 80 years.



L-R: **Peter Gregory**, **Louise Gregory** (Staff: 2006-19) and **Dan Gregory** (2007-14).

Peter had his first flight in a hot air balloon at the age of three and received his balloon licence on his 17th birthday. Since then, Peter has flown around



the world for fun, competitively and commercially. In the last 12 months, he had really made a name for himself in the competition world: winning the GP series, followed by winning a major event in France, then a second place at the British National Championship - doing all of this in the balloon he built himself. In 2022, Peter came 18th in the World Hot Air Balloon Championships.

Peter spent 7 years at Rendcomb. He represented the 1st XI in both cricket and hockey. He was also an accomplished rugby player until a rugby injury halted his flanker days. He was also a very able student, resulting in 3 As at A Level in Maths, Further Maths and Computer Science, although his absolute favourite lesson would be flying home in his hot air balloon - not on most people's curriculum, but it was on Peter's!

With University being the last thing on his mind, Peter set out to be an Airline pilot. He trained at CAE Oxford from 2017-2018. he then got a job with Flybe flying the Dash-8 and later on he went on to fly the Learjet45 for Ryanair.

Be it in a hot air balloon or as an Airline Pilot, Peter's passion for flying was something his family and friends could only admire and support him towards. When he set his heart to something, he'd never give up. He was driven and determined, and one could only watch on in awe.



Peter was passionate about aviation, and this included teaching and inspiring the next generation. He was already undergoing training to become an instructor and had conducted many training flights with new pilots. Peter had a heart of gold and always a “help-out” attitude to give back to those around, which is why the Gregory family and friends have set up **Pilot Pete's Flying Legacy** (charity number: 1212227). It

will be used to support, help and encourage people to follow their dreams in aviation by providing equipment, training and exam help.

“Over 25 years, my little brother Pete touched so many lives, creating lasting memories. We have all lost a great friend, a man, now with his own wings, flying high.”

Papa Echo Tango Echo – clear for take-off.” Dan Gregory (2007-2014).

ST PETER'S CHURCH UPDATE



We are delighted to be able to give you a positive report about St Peter's church!

It is funny to think that it has been standing tall at the top of the hill since it was built in the early 16th Century, watching over the village, with College pupils and villagers coming in and out of the old oak door. It is there for our happy occasions and our sad ones too and the door is

never locked, so do come and visit us.

We are sad that our Benefice Priest, Revd David Minns and our House for Duty Priest, Revd Dr Janet Anderson-Mackenzie are both leaving us in April. This means that the benefice will be in vacancy. There is a feeling of uncertainty, but we are assured that it should be a positive time of reflection on the past and the future, and we should emerge stronger as our search for

a replacement takes place. It is hoped that a new Priest can be appointed within a year.

However, we are in the fortunate position to have **Marie Hobbs**, the Rendcomb College Chaplain (2023-) supporting us. She is full of enthusiasm and new ideas and has brought a breath of fresh air to the church, encouraging younger families to come, especially on special days like Harvest Festival and Remembrance. She is keen to have interactive media to aid her services and we are hopeful that Rendcomb College will install Wi-Fi in the church in the next couple of months. This will also enable us to have a card reader for donations.

Our financial position has been much enhanced due to the very generous donation from **Bill White**. He was a great supporter of St Peter's but we never expected to be remembered in his will. We are in no hurry to spend the money and are determined to spend it wisely on the fabric of the Church that he loved so much.

Our last Quinquennial Report found no major problems, so we have been able to concentrate on smaller housekeeping jobs like mending the tiles on the bell tower roof and installing a heater in the vestry, as it is very damp. We are extremely grateful to Rendcomb College for their continual use of the Church, for their support both financially and practically. The Estates team keeps the churchyard looking in great shape. We are also grateful to the committee that runs the Church, especially our loyal and hardworking Church Warden, Carol Bailey, ably supported by Chris Wise.

If you feel that the church has benefited you during your life and you would like to give a donation or become a regular giver please contact our Treasurer, **Annabel Purcell**. Email: annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk

An artist's impression of **Bill White's** memorial Toposcope, which is soon to be installed on a plinth between the Griffin Theatre and The Old Rectory.



FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE

“Your generous support... has enabled our son to attend The College, your support has truly transformed his life, allowing him to thrive academically, socially and on the sports field within this exceptional school community.”

A grateful parent neatly sums up the work being done by this registered charity which supports students where family circumstances would have prevented them from continuing an education at Rendcomb.

The Friends also support sport and the purchase of learning aids within the College. Over the last 5 years, the charity has helped 8 students and College projects to the value of £78,000.

We can only do this with the generosity of supporters.

If you would like to donate regularly, or make a one-off donation to assist the work of The Friends of Rendcomb please contact **Mark Naylor** either by letter at: 7 Hampton Grove, Meysey Hampton, Cirencester, GL7 5JN or e-mail: naylorm20@hotmail.com , otherwise, please consider a bequest. We also welcome new Trustees – please get in touch if you would be interested. Registered Charity No. 290373.

Chair: **Richard Wills**, Governor & Rendcomb College Trustee appointed 2004.

Executive Trustee: **Mark Naylor** (Staff:1995-2018) appointed 2017.

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

Rob Jones Head of College (2015-25), Ex-Officio 2015

Keith Winmill (1972-79)

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

Jessica Weston (1998-2005), OR Vice-Chair.

David Marshall (1972-79)

Robert Sharman (2010-18).

OLD RENDCOMBIAN NEWS



Chris Terrill (Staff:1978-83) has set a new Guinness World Record. Chris had already run more than 50 marathons around the world when he decided to run the Brighton Marathon, despite being on crutches due to having had a recent hip replacement. He completed the marathon in six hours, 11

minutes and 11 seconds. He later discovered he had beaten a previous record by more than 13 minutes. "If I'd known there was a record to be beaten, I'd have gone faster," he said.

Tom Pethick (2008-15) has been busy travelling around the world whilst making a global documentary series for DAZN that follows the FIFA Club World Cup around the world. Each episode has a different presenter who takes the viewers on a fun, fast tour of each club and local culture. 32 episodes coming from every competing team, representing all six continents in a new-look competition taking place in the USA this summer. You can watch every episode and all of the FIFA Club World Cup for free on DAZN.com!



<https://www.dazn.com/en-US/welcome>

Tom has also been drumming up interest for a 2015 leavers' reunion in Cirencester this August. About 40 people have said they're keen so far...

Nicholas Dakin (1962-68) [son of **Douglas Dakin**, 1920-1926]

I retired from St Paul's Girls' School, London (1987-2013), where I taught English (GCSE and A-level) and produced many plays.

Since leaving Rendcomb, I must have played at least 20 roles in student drama and staff plays; while as a teacher, I directed something in the region of 40 school plays ranging from 'cast of thousands' musicals to such intimate dramas as Ibsen's "Doll's House" and Turgenev's "A Month in the Country". It all started in 1965 when David Sells put me into the part of Thomas More in Robert Bolt's 'A Man for All Seasons'. No auditions in those days! Coming as I did from a non-thespian background; I will always be profoundly grateful to David for his faith in me all those years ago. He

must have spotted something of which I was completely unaware (and no doubt would have remained blissfully unaware for my entire life). The small size of Rendcomb at that time (about 120 boys), though in some ways restricting, meant that the school could be very inclusive and enabling; and this in turn meant that one didn't need to be a 'star' to act large parts (or, let it be said, play 1st XV rugby!).

It is just possible that I had a later and similar effect on one or two of my own students. One actor, however, who certainly did not need any help was 15 year old Rory Kinnear! He was a Pauline at the time - a pupil of St Paul's, the 'brother' school. I recall directing him (a superfluous task!) as Captain Macheath - a singing as well as a speaking part - in a co-ed production of the 18th century 'Beggar's Opera'.

I moved permanently to Malta in 2018 - but I have owned (and restored - almost completely) an old palazzino in the Grand Harbour since 2006. I read, I listen to a great deal of music (thank you to John Tooze and my contemporary Bill Griffiths), and occasionally watch Polish TV with my Polish wife!



Josh Thomas (2001-2013) got engaged to Ashleigh Cave, September 2024. Josh is currently a first officer for British Airways, flying the Airbus 350 on their long-haul routes.



Robin Witchell (1989-96)

I am now living in Northumberland, working for the Forestry Commission [having just left the National Trust after 10 years where I worked with **Jess Weston** (1998-2005) for a bit]. I am still in touch with many of my year group - 1997 leavers.



Dan Gregory (2007-2014) was one of three young hot air balloon pilots who were awarded the UK's Royal Aero Club Britannia Trophy (y@In 2024) for showing remarkable courage in overcoming their fears and achieving success out of adversity, after the deep loss of **Peter Gregory** (2009-16), Dan's brother in June 2023.

Read the story: <https://www.fai.org/news/three-young-british-balloon-pilots-awarded-britannia-trophy-bravery-during-tragedy>

Alice Tredwell (née Barefoot 1997-2004) and some fellow ORs went for a reunion dinner in Cheltenham, at The Vine. It was a lovely evening spent laughing and reminiscing. They are planning to do another catch-up later this year. If anyone in their year is interested in joining, please get in touch. They have a WhatsApp group you can join.



ORs from left to right: **Chris Barefoot** (2002-2004), **Alice Tredwell** (née Barefoot 1997-2004), **Sarah Bennett** (née Rudderham 1997-2004), **Harriet Kingsford** (1999-2004), **Nick Clements** (1997-2004), **Sarah Colson** (1997-2004), **Anna Metcalf** (née Marlow 1997-2002), **Chloë Lawson-Smith** (née Clarke 1997-2002), **Amanda Caley** (née Lomax 1997-2004), **Rom Ringstrom** (née Evans 1997-2004).



Iora, **Holly Phelps** (2001-2012) is so grateful to everyone who has listened, shared and supported her and with whom she has had the opportunity to create and perform. In 2023, Iora had 29k listeners, and in 2024, it increased to 36k. ‘There’s still a long way to go when it comes to fair pay for artists from streaming, especially with the rise of AI. But thank you to those who continue to buy merch and tickets.’

‘That sinking feeling’ was nominated for two awards:
 @musicandsoundawards @productionmusicawards

James Cairns-Terry (1972-77) I am now fully retired, having recently worked in a care home for those with challenging behaviours. Very rewarding but hard work and risky at times. Before that, I was an antique clock restorer and prior to restoring clocks, I was an airline pilot. Great fun but a very responsible job. I now fly microlights for fun and have a half share in a Skyranger Swift microlight. This is based at Over Farm near Gloucester. I fly whenever I can but with the awful weather, not too often. When not flying (and being a house husband), I practise piano, mainly classical and ragtime.



2008 Leavers Reunion.

From Left to Right:
 Friend, **Laura Scott**, **Joe Scott**, **Laurie Wilcox**, **Mark Gunner**, **Charlie Stutchbury**, **Rebecca Richards** (née Hutchison), **Oli Richards**, **Katie Wilcox**.

Hugh Richards (1945-58). I recently met with several ORs at my elder brother's (**Martin David Richards**'s) funeral. I met briefly with **David Godfrey** (1948-56) (Glosters Eaton Hall OCS) when I was in the Light Infantry (KSLI – my Godfather had been in it during the war) before my being commissioned into the Welch Rgt (Logistics) who were in Germany. I served in Cyprus and North Africa where my younger brother **Alexander** took over my platoon (also ex OR). I carried the Queen's Colour for the TA Bn 4 Welch Regiment at a presentation of New Colours by the late Queen as a Lieutenant (later a Captain in Cardiff) and had joined Guardian Assurance on the sales-side of things, becoming a Sales Manager in Worcester, later The Potteries and Manchester from where I retired back to Worcestershire. I enjoy gardening, cooking, inventing things such as for sailing (Great Interest) or board games 'Three-handed chess', or 3-dimensional noughts and crosses for example, a special hook for tying up and catching mooring ropes. I married Lesley Irene Richards (she never changed her surname) in 1954. I have a daughter, Jessica, and son, Toby who lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland with a partner, and daughter, now 10 years old.

Chris Horton (1967-73) It is now 10 years since I retired from careers in electronics and systems in various industries. To wind down, I started working in state secondary schools as a supply cover supervisor, and find that I've been with Teaching Personnel longer than any previous employer. I love working with young people - endlessly creative in ways to destroy a lesson - and wouldn't be without it. Have to fully retire one day, but not yet...

Tony Peart, an academic who has been researching the history of a now largely forgotten progressive furniture company, The Betula Limited of Sharpleshall Street, London has had his paper published. **The Betula Ltd.** is finally finished and published in the journal of the Decorative Arts Society (Vol.48) decorativeartsociety.org.uk/journal/. The company was founded in late 1931 by two old Rendcombians: **David Haes** (1926-29) and **Francis Nevel**, born Franz Kefel (1925-1929). A link to the paper: insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/8619/

STAFF LEAVERS



John Wright (Staff:2009-2024) - College Organist

John joined the College when Roy Raby was Director of Music, and has fulfilled many positions in the Music Department since then: A level music teacher, theory tutor, piano teacher, go-to-accompanist, and, most notably Chapel Organist, where his playing has delighted and inspired nearly fifteen years of Rendcombians. During the COVID lockdowns, he recorded weekly pieces of organ music from his house, which were paired with **Bob Edy's** (1959-67, Staff:2015-23) recorded

reflections. John is also a prolific composer and has written several pieces for the College Choirs; his carol 'Make we Joy' was first performed at the Carol Service in 2016, and his cantata 'Welcome the Spring' (later renamed 'Five Blake Songs') was composed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the College in 2020, although it was not performed until 2022. His Requiem, written for the Chapel Choir will be performed for the first time in Cirencester Parish Church in May 2025. John is decidedly not retiring, he continues to be busy as an ABRSM examiner, performer, and recitalist. Rendcomb is exceptionally fortunate to have had the service and dedication of this formidable musician and performer, and the College and the Music department owe him a significant debt of thanks.

Dr Tom Edwards (Director of Music 2016-)

Sarah Jones - Head of English (Staff:2012-2024)



Sarah's level of enthusiasm and commitment to the job never wavered, throughout all the varied roles she took on over her 12 years at Rendcomb. I remember going into her classroom, with our then HoD Paul Jennings and we were agog at the amount of material she had set up around the walls to help and inspire her new classes. We knew then that the English department and indeed the College was in for something special.

Sarah is a great lover of the countryside and a proponent of adventure in the great outdoors, so it wasn't surprising that D of E was one of the first activities she became

involved with. Further afield, that same adventurous spirit led to her contribution to many school trips, including a trip to Patagonia. Sarah was the first Head of KS3 when the position was created and I remember her arranging meetings with every single child in those year groups, to get to know and understand their journeys through the first stage of their education at senior level. It was around this time as part of her MA that Sarah was researching and writing about raising the attainment of boys in the English classroom - a prime example of how Sarah constantly kept up with current thinking and development in education, while gaining experience and putting that into practice here. Incidentally, as well as



studying and moving into middle management, she also managed to write a book - presumably in all that spare time she had!

Arguably some of Sarah's most important work was with the Sixth Form. She enjoyed both A level teaching and Sixth Form tutoring, as well as her pastoral role as a

Houseparent of Park House. Later on, she took on Head of Careers, bringing energy and ideas to provide a huge range of trips, talks, visits and opportunities for the College's 6th formers. Recently she introduced a new activity, "Woman Up"; it has inspired girls of all ages in the College to think about the impact they can have in school, the workplace and the world - raising confidence and enthusiasm for their futures.

Sarah used her energy and enthusiasm to good effect as Head of English: there were always new books in the department; new ideas for how we might improve literacy through reading, texts to help foster inclusion or start debates about current affairs.

Sarah is a consummate team-player and is absolutely brilliant at spotting what you are good at or when you have done something and she says thank you through little personal notes, flowers, hugs, chocolate eggs at Easter - those little moments of recognition which we all need to feel valued, to feel part of something, to feel noticed.

Sarah has had a change of career and is now Project Manager for the Focus Consultancy Group and an evening English tutor for Focus Tutoring UK.

I wish her all the luck in the world. **Mary Harries** (Staff:2005-2018)

Chris McGuire (Staff:2014-2024) - Head of Computing



Chris was involved in many aspects of the college, be it academic, social or sporting during his 12 years at Rendcomb. As Head of Computing, he was instrumental in moving the teaching forward not only in the ICT department but across all subjects due to the changes in pedagogy brought about by the COVID pandemic.

Teachers and students moved into interaction through MS Teams and OneNote and Chris was very helpful in making the transition as smooth as possible, especially for the teachers of a more ‘luddite’ persuasion! In the social aspects of the school he was a very caring and approachable tutor who helped to make the delivery of their PSHEE sessions very engaging. Chris is also very proud of his input to the college’s sport as he was a key ‘mover’ in bringing more football into the sporting portfolio. In summary, Chris was a very friendly and supportive teacher who gave of his time freely to help others. He is currently enjoying his new role at National Star College.

Alex Brealy (1980-87, Staff:1994-2023).

Matt Walton (Staff:2019- 2024) - Director of Sport and **Caroline Collett** (Staff:2019-2024) - School Nurse.

Matt was an enthusiastic Director of Sport who always promoted the core principles of enjoyment and teamwork, whilst also promoting higher skill sets.

Caroline expertly cared for the physical and emotional wellbeing of both students and staff, latterly as part of the Safeguarding team. They have moved to Portugal in search of the sun and a well-earned rest.





Cricket 'Up Top'

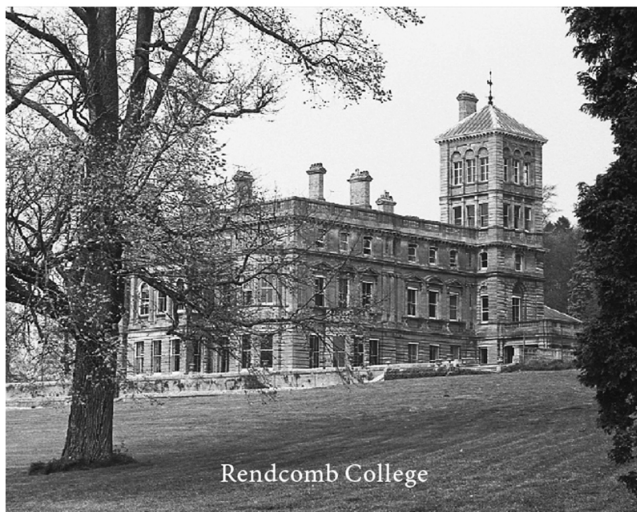
Lancashire M T (1953-57), Malpass J C (1954-62), Howard Gough (1949-57), Webb J M (1954-63), Robin H Tingle (1954-57), Jones M (1954-62), Webb C J (1955-63). On the roller in the background **Stephen Merrett (1952-58).**

Rendcomb College hoodies and umbrellas are available to buy from the Rendcomb Stores for £25 each.
(01285 831853)



TERM TIME OPENING HOURS		
		
MONDAY	8 AM - 5.30 PM	8.00 AM - 5.30 PM
TUESDAY	8 AM - 5.30 PM	8.00 AM - 5.30 PM
WEDNESDAY	8 AM - 5.30 PM	8.00 AM - 5.30 PM
THURSDAY	8 AM - 5.30 PM	8.00 AM - 5.30 PM
FRIDAY	8 AM - 5.30 PM	8.00 AM - 5.30 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM - 2 PM	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED





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