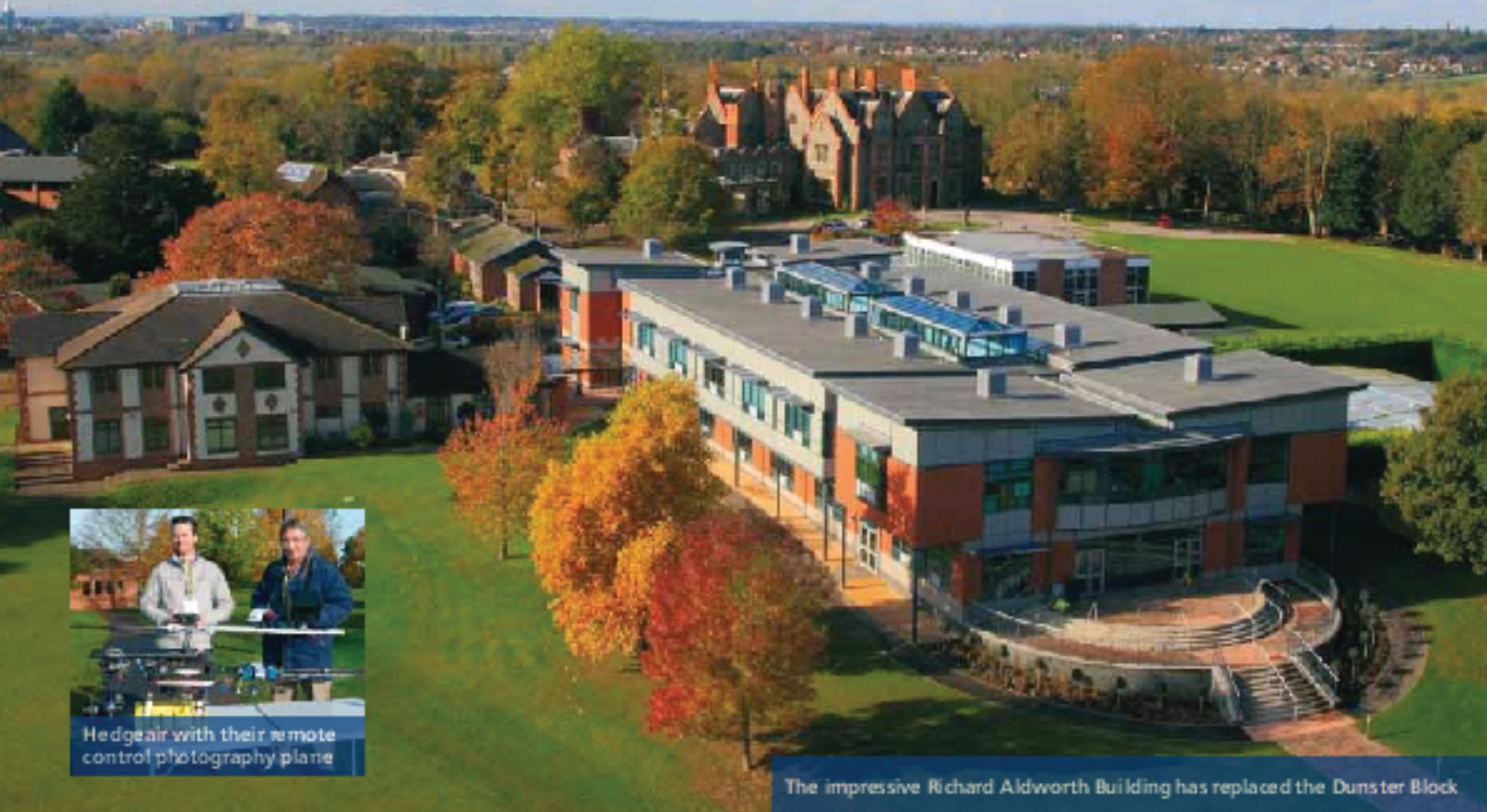




OLD BLUES NEWS

Annual newsletter of the Reading Old Blues Association · Number 61



The impressive Richard Aldworth Building has replaced the Dunster Block

Welcome to a new look newsletter

From this issue on, *Old Blues News* is to be published just once a year. It's a chance to make the newsletter easier on the eye, with more pages, some longer articles and better photographs. Your ideas for content are also welcome!

The shift to annual publication makes it very important we have your up-to-date email address. *Please update your email address on the Old Blues website: www.readingoldblues.org.uk*. The address is kept private and you can be sure that we won't bombard you with junk mail (just the occasional update). We will never pass your email address to a third party. You may also wish to 'Like' us at www.facebook.com/ReadingOldBlues.

Thanks

Many thanks to all the contributors who have provided words and images for this issue. Please keep sending your news to d.woodward@reading.ac.uk

Diary

Annual Dinner
Saturday, March 23, £30
Tickets: lizwiggett@me.com

**Junior Public Speaking:
Summer Soirée**
Friday, 21 June

Old Blues Reunion Day
Saturday, 29 June

Swing into Summertime
Tuesday, 2 July

Malthus Service
Friday, 5 July

Prizegiving
Thursday, 12 September

AGM
Sunday, 9 February 2014, 11am

Contacts

Reading Blue Coat School
Marjie Thorne - Alumni Office
mt@rbcs.org.uk
www.rbcs.org.uk

Reading Old Blues Association
James Boyce - Secretary
jboyce20@gmail.com
Including enquiries about playing in
Daniels Cup Football & Cricket

Adam Hill - President
adamchill@gmail.com

David Woodward - OBN Editor
d.woodward@reading.ac.uk
or write to Long Gardens,
Sonning Eye, Reading RG4 6TR
www.readingoldblues.org.uk



Home Secretary Theresa May MP performs the opening ceremony



A stunning new facility for the School

A new era began with the opening of the School's new teaching building last September. The Richard Aldworth Building provides standards of comfort and a level of technological sophistication that would amaze alumni used to the old Dunster Block.

Guests at the ceremony enjoyed tours of the building including the new art rooms where Richard Ennis produced an impressive new portrait of Richard Aldworth that is now in pride of place in the building's entrance. The fully carpeted building incorporates many 'environmentally friendly' features as well as a comfortable pupils' common room with a paved area overlooking the playing fields.

Brian Walsh, retiring Chairman of Governors

At the Governors' meeting in December 2012, Brian Walsh (1957) formally stood down as Chairman of Governors, a post in which he had served since 2000.

Brian has given exceptional service to the School in this role. He worked closely with former Headmaster James McArthur in a period of rapid growth, development and change for the School and ensured the financial stability and strength that allows the School to continue to develop its aspirations, facilities and numbers.

Brian joined the Governing Body in 1984 and brought financial acumen and wisdom to his role, while always showing a real determination to protect the School's ethos and educational standards. This was largely a legacy of Brian's own time as a pupil at Blue Coat in the 1950s. Brian attended the

School on a free place as a Founder and he was very keen to ensure that young people might have the opportunity to benefit from the School in the same way he had. The re-introduction of Foundation Scholarships eight years ago reflected this determination and there are pupils now enjoying a Blue Coat education whose families would never have been able to afford it were it not for Brian's vision and determination.

Brian is a man of great modesty but his Valet in the Aldworthian of 1957 marks him out as an exceptional pupil whose achievements included being Head Boy, Junior and Senior Victor Ludorum, Captain of 1st XI football and a member of the Public Speaking team. It was apt that Brian's final act as Chairman of Governors was to invite the Home Secretary to open the Richard Aldworth Building at its formal opening in September. In his speech, Brian reflected on the fact that he had attended the opening of the Dunster Building as a pupil and the values that continue to underpin

our communal life as a school. Without doubt, the School would never have been able to construct a building of the size and scope of the Richard Aldworth Building without the sound foundations that Brian had laid down together with previous Headmasters, Bursars and Governors.

Brian is a proud Old Blue, and served as President of the Association in 1986–87. We are delighted that he will remain as one of our School Governors and that he continues to serve as a Trustee of the Reading Blue Coat School Foundation. We thank him for his exceptional contribution to the School as Chairman of Governors.

He is replaced as Chairman by another Old Blue, **Peter Bertram** (1973), whose father was a long-serving Head of Mathematics at Blue Coat. Peter attended the University of Kent after leaving the School and trained as a Chartered Accountant. He is currently the Chairman of two listed companies and the non-executive chairman of a software company.

Michael Windsor

Bone marrow victor Russell runs a marathon

By Russell Cook

Several years ago I was diagnosed with a catastrophic bone marrow failure, which threatened to claim my life. The only cure was a bone marrow transplant. Naively, I went into the treatment with a cheerful 'it'll be fine' approach.

Unfortunately all did not go to plan. I needed three bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, three trips to intensive care, and I suffered fungal pneumonia, septicaemia, and renal failure. Plus, I had over 350 units of blood and platelets. I was in hospital seriously ill for seven months.

The stress on my family was almost intolerable, but friends stepped into the breach. My final transplant involved a half match from my own son and was only the fifth done at the UK's top transplant centre at King's College Hospital. He has since become a blood donor and is on the Anthony Nolan register to save someone else. And now he wants to be a Doctor!

On April 21 I am running the London Marathon! So I am looking for help and sponsorship. Help, in the form of anyone wanting to train with me, and sponsorship at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/russellcook

I am raising money for The Anthony Nolan Trust and Myelodysplastic Syndrome UK. I'm the only transplant patient running this year. I have been training since October when it was as much as I could do to run for a minute or two. But things have changed, and whilst I won't break world records, I hope to get round in about five hours.

Being a bone marrow donor is really easy. The Anthony Nolan Trust is specifically looking for men aged 16 to 30 years and I would urge any current or recent past RBCS pupils to do it. It's just a spit test! For more, see:

www.anthonynolan.org/What-you-can-do/save-a-life.aspx.



Russell recovering on holiday with his family

Please visit my page and sponsor me <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/russellcook>.



Beating bowel cancer with a book



By Tim Darvell (1984)

In April 2012 the dreaded cancer word came into our family. One minute I was sitting with my mother expecting a normal discharge from hospital, and then in the blink of an eye our world was turned upside down when we were told that mum had bowel cancer.

She had been having trouble in the bathroom and was sent to Wexham Park Hospital for an endoscopy, and it was at that point we learned she had bowel cancer. Her treatment involved radiotherapy and chemotherapy to shrink the tumour, before a successful operation to remove it was performed in September. She is making an excellent recovery, although she still faces an operation to remove a cancerous nodule from her lung in January.

The care and attention mum received both at Mount Vernon and Wexham Park was first class, and it was while my mother was undergoing treatment that I decided I wanted to do something to raise funds for a cancer charity and give something back. Running a business on my own restricts what I could do, but the idea of writing a book seemed the perfect solution. I had been a keen amateur photographer for about a year and so decided to write a book featuring photos on various subjects, ideas and technical approaches.

Beating Bowel Cancer is a fundraising book featuring a collection of photographs and the stories behind them to raise funds for the Beating Bowel Cancer charity. All proceeds will be donated to the charity.

The ebook version on Amazon is only £1.65 of which the £0.97 I earn will be donated to the charity. It is for the Kindle, but there are freely available Kindle reader apps for iPads, iPhones and computers:

<http://tinyurl.com/tdarvell>

The printed book is available for £6.49 on Amazon:

<http://tinyurl.com/tdarvell2>

The book can also be bought from CreateSpace for \$11.49. All physical copies will raise £1.01 for the charity www.create-space.com/4070775

The plan is to try to sell 1,000 copies, and after a couple of months I have sold just 122 copies – so I have a long way to go! Absolutely every penny I earn is donated to the Beating Bowel Cancer charity. Please buy a copy as well as help spread the word to as many people as possible. The marketing seems to be a much bigger challenge than writing the book itself.

Edward plays in St. Pauls



Talented musician Sixth Former Edward Reeve has recently been offered an organ scholarship at Cambridge. For his Gap year he has also accepted an organ scholarship at Salisbury Cathedral and he will give a recital at St Paul's next year.

A word from the Officers...

Roger Wiggett, Immediate Past

President: In the past year I've heard our Home Secretary talk about the importance of good teaching environments, seen the Old Blues again win the Daniels Cup, attended the Malthus Service and read the names of The Fallen at the Remembrance Service (the most moving aspect of the role). However, the single most enjoyable part of being President is spending time with many other Old Blues. I'm looking forward enormously to the annual dinner on March 23 as many others from 1996 plan to attend. Our main evening event of the calendar never disappoints!



Adam Hill, President: Every year is different and the last year has been no exception! It's been great to see the Old Blues involved in so many activities in School and beyond. Particularly noteworthy was the first Old Blues' music concert held last spring. With a fantastic line up of talented Old Blues musicians and public speakers of all kinds, I hope the event is repeated. Another highlight was the opening of the Richard Aldworth Building – well worth a look around when you get a chance. We look forward to the **Old Blues Annual Dinner** on March 23 and hope that you can join us!

In committee...

At the AGM, members heard of Boat Club plans for a sponsored row from Oxford to Sonning next September. Old Blues may well be able to take part. Old Blues golfers interested in playing in a Daniels Cup match should contact jaboyce20@gmail.com



Peter Strickland

Director's award for Old Blue whose new film celebrates the sound of murder

Described as 'one of the most remarkable British movies of the past couple of years', *Berberian Sound Studio* is a psychological thriller set in the Kafkaesque offices of a sleazy Italian film company in the 1970s.

The film, which is out on DVD, was written and directed by Peter Strickland, who made his feature debut in Hungary three years ago with *Katalin Varga*.

We are grateful to Peter for agreeing to be interviewed at the time of a presentation he made to the Reading Film Theatre.

Berberian Sound Studio is backed by the British Film Institute and follows the well-received but very low-budget *Katalin Varga*, which was made in Romania with the proceeds of a small inheritance.

You've been quoted as saying that 'Film has the potential to blow minds – to awe. It's a spell' and you've listed your early influences as David Lynch's *Eraserhead*. Why were you drawn to this film?

No idea. I was watching films like *Cocktail* prior to that and I guess the

sudden epiphany is similar to what many of us feel when we discover something other than English food. You kind of put up with what's in front of you, but have a hunch that there might be something more rewarding out there and indeed there is. *Eraserhead* came along and it blew my mind, making the mainstream films I had seen prior to that irrelevant. There was such an intense feeling of otherness with that film and it paved the way for anything else which had a similar resonance. But saying that, once you start making films that are marginal (for want of a better word), you start to crave entertainment again. Only recently I found I could make peace with my younger self and enjoy all those '80s mainstream films I discarded. But not *Cocktail*.

How do you remember your time at RBCS and are you in touch with anyone from the school?

I remember good times and bad times, as with anything. I keep in touch with four friends from my year; the same number of friends I had when I was at the school. One of them, **Justin Turner**

(1988) got to play the gong in *Berberian Sound Studio*. He was reluctant to appear in the film and generally, he can't stand the music and films I'm into, which is probably why we get on so well.

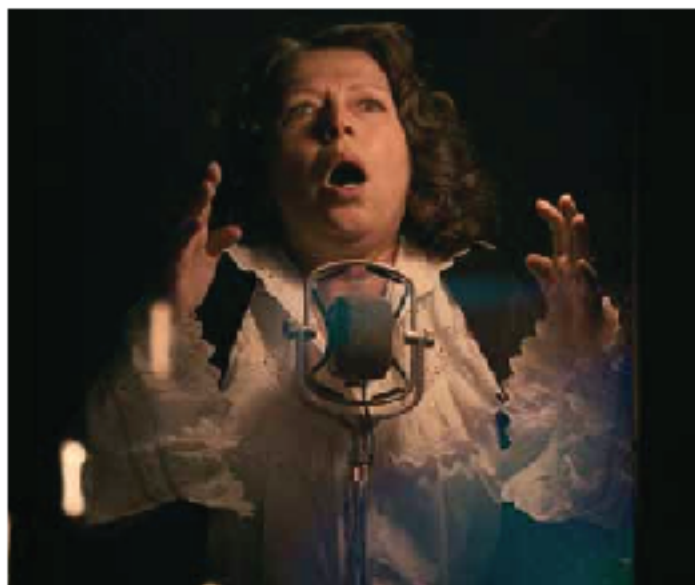
When did you first decide you'd like to make films and what motivates you now? How did you begin and how does it link with your interest in experimental music making?

June 1989 during GCSE exams. I was an atrocious daydreamer during exams, so I thought I better find a job where I could turn that to my advantage. It took 20 years to pull it off, and it was a matter of practising and practising, making mistakes, etc. Quite a bit of bad luck for many years, but also a lot of good luck recently.

I made short films on Super 8 and 16mm, but now it's much cheaper with digital technology, so there's no excuse to idle around. In 1996, I started a band with Colin Fletcher (who left Blue Coat in 1983, I think) as a cheaper way of trying out various film ideas. The sound work that Alan Splet was doing on *Eraserhead* fed into some of the *musique concrète* ideas that people such as Luc Ferrari or Iannis Xenakis were exploring. It's a whole world that I find fascinating and *Berberian Sound Studio* was an attempt to formulate some of those ideas. Colin contributed some devastating feedback and tape delay effects for *Berberian Sound Studio*, so you have three Old Blues lurking away in that film.

Do schools do sufficient to foster creativity?

I don't know how it is now. I have no way of knowing, but I think they



should foster not only creativity, but also a general understanding of the arts, not only for career opportunities, but just as importantly, for giving students the capacity to digest the world around them with different eyes and ears. We all know where ignorance leads. A diverse cultural education is paramount whether you're going to use it or not.

Congratulations on being awarded Best Director at the British Independent Film Awards. Do you feel optimistic about the prospects for independent cinema in Britain?

I think these things come in waves. We had some truly singular filmmakers such as Peter Greenaway and Derek Jarman during the '80s, but most of the '90s were atrocious for me with all these ex-public schoolboys slumming it with

their wideboy gangster films. Very undignified. However, the British film climate has become exciting again – Steve McQueen, Joanna Hogg, Andrea Arnold, Ben Wheatley and others. These are directors who are able to distinguish between Fassbender and Fassbinder. That kind of thing does help. I don't know how long this period will last for, but it's a great time to be working and I feel very OK about it. Saying that, it's not all beer and skittles and it's much tougher to financially get by than people think. I live in Hungary to avoid the extortionate rents in the UK.

Will the good times last? No idea. Most directors belly flop at some point. It's all part of the film life cycle and it's inevitable that I will belly flop too, but hopefully spectacularly.

Has box office reflected the film's warm critical reception?

No. And as expected.

You are part-Greek. Does this heritage influence you work?

Mostly no. It just influences my timekeeping. But saying that, I am working on something a little bit Greek at the moment. Too early to say what will happen, but there won't be any bouzoukis or IMF baddies.

You are now working on your third film The Duke of Burgundy, which you've said is a 'simple love story' – will it really be that straightforward? When will the film be released?

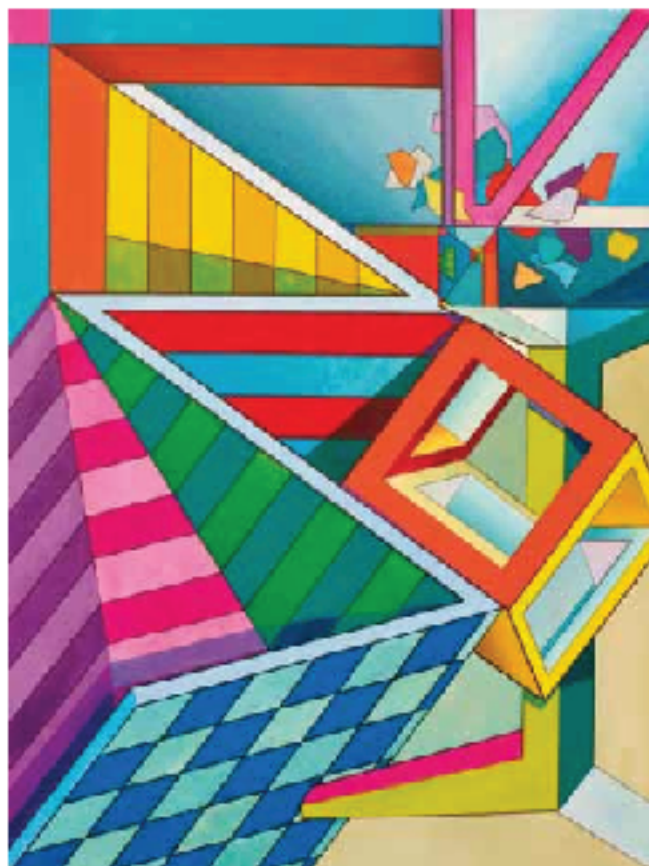
It is a simple love story. We'll go (relatively) nice and easy this time. Ben Wheatley, Amy Jump, Andy Starke and Pete Tombs (who were behind *Sightseers*) are producing. I can't wait to start. Depending on cast availability, we should be ready to go this year, which means it'll be out in 2014, but don't take my word for it. It's such an unpredictable business.

Oliver hits GQ

Some nine paintings by **Oliver Perry** (1992) have recently been featured in an eight-man New York exhibition (tinyurl.com/ollip) called 'Confluence' which is subsequently to tour to India, China and Japan. *GQ Magazine* picked up on the publicity and in March will feature his work in a feature on emerging British contemporary artists and cutting edge galleries.

Find out more about Oliver's work at www.ollieperry.com

RIGHT *The ambition of purposeful contradiction*
40 x 30" [for sale]



News of Old Blues

Duncan Adams (1965) worked first in property then the hair world. He emigrated to Durban, South Africa in 1974 where he had his own business until 1983 when he became a Technical Consultant and Manager for Wella.

Ben Askin is now working in investment banking in the City of London and was spotted in the kit of Curlew Rowing Club, something of a rarity as far upriver as Henley Regatta, where Maurice Sheen's striped blazer signified the presence of the Royal Logistical Corps.

Sam Attias (2013) will read Engineering at Magdalen College, Oxford.

David Baldwin (1982) studied Physiology at Sheffield, becoming a teacher at Bingham Academy, an SIM mission school in Ethiopia where his four children were students. After marrying he studied for a divinity degree at Belfast Bible College to prepare for teaching Theology in Ethiopia again. Now employed as International Outreach Worker with his wife at Carey Baptist Church, Reading, where they help the church engage with people from other nationalities. (The number of different languages spoken in Reading's primary schools is around 150).

Miles Barton (1986) was producer and director of *Attenborough: 60 years in the wild*, which reviewed the naturalist's long career.

Mark Bayliss (1975) works for Care UK as Head of Projects and Facilities Management, Healthcare. A father of four, he lives in Derbyshire.

Kristian Brannum-Burns (2006) recently completed his Masters at LSE and is now working for Rothschild as an Investment Banking Analyst.

Adam Butler (2012) will be reading English at Cambridge from 2014.

Andrew Chaplin (1999) directed BBC-2's *Charlie Brooker's 2012 Wipe* on New Year's Day, which took a satirical look at the previous twelve months.

John Chapman (1953) is retired and living in Loughborough, Nottingham.

Stephen Bonny (1996) is a Consultant Physician in General Medicine.

Ben Collins (1994) has bravely taken up primary school teaching in Suffolk after leaving the legal profession.

Anthony Cooke (1953) is happily retired and living in Cambridge. Married to Wendy with 2 daughters and in touch with Geoff Reynolds (1956).



Danny Crouchman (2005) married Christina Lueddeke in the quaint village church in their village Dibden Purlieu, in the New Forest. The ceremony was followed by a 'diamond and pearls' themed wedding reception at Bartley Lodge Hotel. The day was shared with many family members and close friends (including many Old Blues). Their honeymoon in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Hawaii was more than sufficient recuperation after months of stressful wedding planning!

Matt Crouchman (2007) teaches PE and Psychology at the School and has become engaged to Katie Laverick.

Tim Darvell (1984) has been running the family packaging materials business in Maidenhead and Medmenham since his father died in 2009. The firm supplied the School with black bin liners for a number of years! At the age of 40 he was awarded a first class degree in Computing after much part-time study. He has played football and cricket for the Old Blues for many years and much enjoys longstanding friendships dating back to his School years. On p4 he describes a book of photographs he has put together to raise funds to research into a cure for bowel cancer.

Alan Davies (1964) is married with four children. He retired from the wine trade to Pembrokeshire in June 2012.

Nicolas Davies (1999) graduated in History of Art at Manchester University in 2003 and is running with a business partner a successful film, video and music recording company.

Joshua Dean (2012) will be reading French and Beginners' Italian at Oxford from September.

Justin Dean (2009) is back from a successful study year in Hanover as part of his Bristol University degree course and has been invited to consider postgraduate work in Mathematics at Bristol.

George Evans (1949) former Head of the School visited the School recently after his daughter and son-in-law arranged a surprise trip to mark his 80th birthday.

Matthew Gardner (1984) immigrated to the US in 1992 and lives in Seattle running an economic consultancy firm.



Mike Golding OBE (1977) was among the front runners for the sixth time in the epic round-the-world solo sailing race the Vendée Globe, expecting to return to Les Sables d'Olonne, France, in early February 2013. His compatriot Alex Thompson came in third.

James Gregory (2008) is graduating from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania next semester – and apparently playing a lot of rugby there.

Jonathan Haynes (2002) still treading the boards up and down the country and living in London, and is to be married on April 20 to Amanda-Jane Short.

Edward Hicks (2009) was awarded a First Class Honours degree in History at St Anne's College, Oxford and is currently doing postgraduate study on Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated.

Rex Howlett (1957) worked as a telephone engineer in Reading, Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. Then ran a jewellery business with his wife Joyce until he retired in 2005.

John Kingston (1953) has retired to Pangbourne from his dairy machinery business and keeps up his interests in golf and cricket.

Rupert Irons (1990), serving as a commander in the Royal Navy seconded to the Pentagon in Washington, became the proud father of Charlie in June 2012.

Nick Kerridge (1999) is an airline pilot and due to be married in the summer.

Andrew Knee-Robinson (1984) has left the army and is now working full-time as physiotherapist with the British international rowing squad, training on the Redgrave-Pinsent rowing lake a matter of a few hundred yards from the School Boathouse.

Simon Langler (1989) joined the Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm) and trained as a pilot. Joined Thames Valley Police for 14 years, guarding the Royal family and other VIP's. He then moved into the Force's underwater search unit as a diver, emigrating to Canada where he is now a Police Officer based just outside Toronto. Currently the rescue swimmer for the Force's Marine unit covering Lake Ontario. And he used to duck out of all the swimming classes at School and couldn't swim a stroke! He also teaches workshops, feeling he has much for which to thank his education.



Ellie Mann (2012) is taking on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of the child bereavement charity, Daisy's Dream. In addition, her first fundraising initiative is a bungee jump in Maidenhead in February. If you would like to sponsor Ellie please see: www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/KillReading She writes:

'The team includes **Mike Richards** and **Marc Eivers** (2012). We have decided to raise money for Daisy's Dream in particular because we have all grown up in Reading and we feel it is about time that we gave back to the community. Daisy's Dream was an easy choice because it works solely in the Berkshire area helping children deal with bereavement. The charity had helped pupils within the School.

'I am looking forward to seeing Africa from a different perspective. I and Mike Richards have family connections, so seeing it from the top will really be an experience. As a team we look forward to supporting each other up the mountain and coming back with the ability to say 'we've done it!'

'I think that one of the greatest challenges we will face is the altitude sickness. Research suggests that teenagers are more prone to this than their elders.

'The team are very actively training with the majority playing hockey weekly for Reading Hockey Club. We also hope to

do a practice expedition before we leave, however this depends entirely on funds and sponsorship.

There are many ways to support us, either by donating at www.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/KillReading or by liking/following our Facebook and Twitter pages (@team_kill)'

David George Melrose (1968) is an Operations Director of Rivalminster, which operates hotels and apartments in central London.

Julian Morris (1978) is Chief Executive of Economic Development on St Helena. He has also sailed round the world, and spent time on Tristan Da Cunha, working with the population in developing their sustainable development plan. From March 2003 to October 2006 Julian was General Manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. During his time in the islands he was deeply involved in the modernisation of government. He also owns a farm in North Yorkshire.

Also working on St Helena is **Robert Midwinter** (1982), who is Managing Director of the St Helena Development Agency.



Daniel O'Brien (2012) left School for the USA where he has signed for American Football team Orlando City after being on trial. He wrote that 'the heat out here makes it unbearable to play at times.' He tried for the team as the kicker. 'Turns out I am the best they have ever had - perhaps I have missed my calling?' He is now enjoying driving and the frisson created by his English accent.

James Parrott (2011) is now at Cardiff University reading Philosophy.

David Reynolds (2001) is working in Singapore as Investment Director/ Partner for an Independent Private Wealth firm, specialising in offshore investments for expatriates. Married in Bali in 2011 and plans to remain in Singapore for the medium term.



Rachel Robinson (2010) is studying for a degree in Ancient and Medieval History at Birmingham. Her sister **Ellie** (2005) works as a tax advisor for Deloitte. She is sister to **Lauren** (2003) who married Old Blue **Andy Stevens** (2003) in the summer.

Tom Rosenthal (2006) will again be starring in a future episode of the comedy series 'Plebs'. He appeared recently in 'Friday Night Dinner'.

Richard Saunders (1985) is married with two daughters and living in Charvil. He works in PR at Microsoft: 'Too much weight, blood pressure and cholesterol, not enough hair'.



Marcus Shah (2006) became a father when his wife Lucy was delivered of their first baby, Joshua, on 29 July, 2012.

Robert Slatter (1962) after 32 years in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, is now in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Daniel Schofield and **Daniel Keir** (2012) were awarded the David Pearson Memorial Travel Award (2012) and enjoyed a successful study tour of Laos, which included visits to several remote areas.

Richard Sheen (1985) is making a good recovery from a serious bike accident, which he suffered near his place of work in the City of London recently.

Malcolm Smalley (1952) after National Service trained for the Baptist Ministry at Bristol. Worked as a priest in Cambridgeshire, Sale (Manchester), Stafford and Wells (Somerset).

Michael Smith (1968) is a proud grandfather living and working in Kent where he loves fast cars and bikes.



Andrew Stevens (2003) married **Lauren Robinson** (2003) on 29 July 2012 at Lillibrooke Manor. In attendance were Old Blue contemporaries **Maddy Wilkinson** and **Rachel Ferguson** (Maids of Honour), **James Cox** (Best Man) and ushers **Ben Jones**, **Nick Gilmer** and **Ed Pennington**. Andrew is now practising as an auditor. Lauren is a primary school teacher. Congratulations to all.

Roger Steward (1969) returned to South Africa at the beginning of 2008 with his wife Bev and son Piers and is working for IBM in Cape Town. Previously he lived in Edinburgh for 11 years. Has recently been in touch with **Peter Taylor** and **Jeremy Rudd**.

Charles Wild (2008) has completed his studies at Cambridge and has begun postgraduate work at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Stefan Weger (2012) is now studying Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Leicester.

Nigel Wicks (1999) and his wife Jo are delighted to report the birth of their daughter, Lily, on 12th October 2012. More details on awix@btinternet.com.

David Willis (2003) is a Customer Service Team Manager at Halfords in the Midlands and proud father of Luke James Willis, born to Lynette on 13 August weighing 8 pounds 11.

Rod Wishart (1973) is now living in Kent. Semi retired. Primary income derived from a mid-sized property portfolio. Still enjoying playing football on a regular basis.

Duncan Young (1963), a designer and professional photographer, visited the School on his way back to Auckland, New Zealand following a visit to the UK in December. With superb timing, he joined the School for its traditional Christmas lunch *en route* to Heathrow and was staggered by the changes at Holme Park since his last visit over 20 years ago.

Past staff

Staff leaving in 2013 include **Sally Lambert** (Head of Year 7) and **Sheila Adams** (Heads of Maths) who are retiring, and **Will Statham** (Biology) who will be joining **Luke Walters** at Marlborough College in Malaysia.

A former teacher of Craft Design Technology **John 'Bob' Helliwell** (2005) is much enjoying his retirement.

The School's longest-serving groundsman **Tim Moseley** retired in July 2012. He joined RBCS in the long hot summer of 1976. A presentation was made at the end-of-term staff luncheon in July. He was a familiar and popular member of the Maintenance team.

Former Head of Sixth Form **Toby Nutt** (2001) became the first ever Headmaster of a century-old girls' day and boarding school called Stonar, near Melksham after six years of teaching at that school. Before joining Stonar, Toby worked for the Tanglin Trust School in Singapore, a leading international school.

In memoriam

Colin Brown

A former Head Boy, Brigadier (Ret'd) Colin Brown (1954) died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on 19 August, 2012, aged 74. Husband of Heather, adored father, father-in-law. A former colleague wrote: 'The best commanding officer I have served under... will always be remembered for the way he installed a professional ethos throughout the Regiment.'

Well-remembered for his sports prowess, Colin once recalled shedding a nostalgic tear for his time at School after hearing a radio sports commentary by former Games and Latin master Maurice Eddelston. At that time, Colin was many miles from home in the jungle where, during the Burmese War, he had been seconded to serve with the Gurkhas.



Anthony Davies

We report with sadness the death on 22 June, 2012 of Anthony Charles Davies aged 94.

Tony Davies came to Blue Coat in 1947 and was the first Housemaster at Holme Park. He taught Maths and Science and whilst at the School he met Miss S E Pougher who was the assistant matron/housekeeper and who was known to all the boys as 'Puff'.

They were married at St Andrew's church in Sonning on 2 August, 1949. I was school organist and played at their wedding. At the end of that summer term other boys had known that something was 'up' because the wedding march was a daily feature of my organ practice!

When Puff died in 1999, Tony wanted to make a gift in her memory and decided on a donation to be invested and to produce an income that would support the School in some way. The annual income is used to purchase Maths and Science resources for the School Library. The Davies/Pougher Fund continues to be administered by the Reading Old Blues Association Charitable Trust and the income is now some £300+ per annum.

Tony requested that donations in his memory be given to his Fund and so if any Old Blue who knew Tony and Puff would wish to make a contribution please make your cheque payable to Reading Old Blues Association Charitable Trust and send it to: R E Faulkner, 8 Lancaster Close, Allcroft Road, Reading RG1 5HB. The Trust is a Registered Charity and so under Gift Aid your donation will be even more valuable. **Robert Faulkner**



David Carter (1980)

David E Carter tragically died on 26 August, 2012 in Ireland. The news deeply shocked and saddened those of us who remember him as a School pupil for seven years. During the late 1970s, he and a group of friends would come over and tackle a variety of jobs with cheerful tenacity around the Grounds during successive summer holidays. When School finances were hard pressed and regular groundsmen were difficult to find, our team of 'estate workers' drawn from senior classes offered invaluable assistance with clearing, felling small trees, planting new shrubs and even restoring a neglected rose garden behind School House. If not all the tasks conformed to today's rigorous health and safety requirements, much fun was had and much was accomplished in a relatively short time. Some attractive features of the original Victorian garden began to live again.

Not surprisingly, David's love of the outdoors prompted a growing interest in many environmental and social issues, and at 16 his thinking was probably way ahead of the rest of us. A keen cyclist, sailor, swimmer and canoeist, David was also a talented musician with a passion for jazz who played the trumpet, guitar and harmonica. After leaving School in 1980, he took a degree in Geology and Geography at Exeter University where he discovered even wider outlets for his interests. Kind and most generous by nature with an intuitive understanding of the needs of others, David decided to take up social work in the Republic of Ireland some years later. Many of his responsibilities involved the delivery of courses in wood turning, stone carving and the creative arts and in 2010 he was appointed project manager of a development programme in northern County Tipperary through which many were able to rebuild their lives and find longer term employment. He leaves behind a wife and two grown up sons, to whom we extend our sympathy. **PJ/VW**

Ray Fullbrook (1947)

We record with sadness the death of Ray Fullbrook, a long-serving former Secretary of the Old Blues Committee who died in June at a hospice in Reading after losing a battle with leukaemia.

In addition to his involvement with the Association, Ray was a long-standing member of several local musical societies, which sang beautifully at the funeral where a tribute was delivered by **Nick Siney**. A tribute on Woodley Light Opera Society's website records that 'those who worked with him have fond memories of him – a very happy and easygoing person with a great sense of humour'. Our sympathies to his wife Thelma and wider family.

Richard Holmes (1964)

Died suddenly in June 2012 at his home in Rockbourne, Hampshire.

After leaving RBGS, he worked in Newbury as a trainee manager for Woolworths. In 1968 he moved to London where he worked for a number of financial institutions including The Country Gentlemen's Association, Rothschilds and Friends Provident. During this time he studied extensively to gain his banking qualifications and became a member of the Associate Institute of Banking. He went into semi-retirement in 1999 so he could spend more time with his family and look after his large garden. For a number of years he enjoyed voluntary work as a guide at Salisbury Cathedral. It was only in March this year that he returned to the school for the first time, together with his contemporaries **Bob Bartlett** (1963) and **Christopher Grigsby** (1964). He was amazed by the changes that have been made. He leaves a wife, Adele, and two daughters, Fiona and Jennifer, along with three grandchildren. The funeral was held on June 29 in Rockbourne and attended by over a hundred, such was Richard's standing in the local community.

Vince Sudlow

Old Blue Vincent Sudlow died suddenly in Wales on August 14, 2012, aged 78 years.

Much loved partner of Sheila. After military service, Vince had many years' experience in sales and marketing of plastics for the aviation industry. The

Gloucestershire Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association provided a guard of honour at the funeral. Vince was an honorary Old Blue, having been both a parent and Governor at the School. He organised a number of well-remembered fundraising Guards concerts, appearing on stage very much larger than life in full regimental uniform, including a busby.

Daniels Cup football

GK: Nigel Jackson (2009)
RB: Dunstan Tough (2000's)
CB: Matt Andrews (2011)
CB: Matt Crouchman (c) (2007)
LB: Jonny Bell (2007)
RM: Sam Wareham (2010)
CM: Tom Moszczynski (2008)
CM: Sam Griffiths (2007)
LM: Chris Fajer (2000's)
ST: Ross McAdam (2010)
ST: Ben Jones (2000's)

On a gorgeous Sunday morning Old Blues soccer players reunited, with trophy in hand, to unleash a vast array of talent on the football field.

Although they spanned across a decade of leavers' year groups, the whole squad had one common goal: victory. Upon arrival, we were quick to learn of the intimidating rumours flying around the school that the current 1st XI were one of the best the 'Gaffer' (Derek Cottrell) had seen for a while...

The first half of the game proved to be a dog fight, with both the Old Blues and School maintaining a good deal of possession in midfield but failing to create chances on goal. The combination of Griffiths and Moszczynski in the middle of the park was a real force to be reckoned with, and it was from those two players that the Old Blues struck gold. In the commentary style of Alan Partridge, Sam Griffiths had 'a boot like a traction engine'.

As the second half got underway, fatigue set in. A quick set piece from the School outsmarted the Old Blues and they tied the game at 1-1. From that moment on, the School were persistent in their attacks, but valiantly defending from Matt Andrews and Jonny Bell kept them away from our goal. Final score 1-1, Old Blues retain the trophy – mission accomplished.

Keith Durbidge (1939) DFC, DFM, airman

By Alison Shaw

Pilot who overcame air sickness to become a war reconnaissance photographer. Born 1 June, 1921 in Caversham, Reading, died 2 May, 2011 in Naim, aged 89.

As a novice airman, Keith Durbidge had a less than auspicious start to his flying career. When every training flight made him physically sick, he feared he might not have what it would take to make it as an RAF pilot. All the more remarkable then that he went on not only to be decorated for his courage, unarmed in the skies, in face of the enemy but also to produce some of the finest reconnaissance photographs of the Second World War and to inspire generations of pilots with his infectious enthusiasm for flying.

His was the spirit that epitomised the determination and derring-do of Britain's young wartime airmen.

As a boy he was already fascinated by speeding transport, running from school every afternoon to stand on the railway bridge in time to catch the Cheltenham Flyer hurtle below him at 80mph at 3.23pm. When his father took a job on the railways in Nigeria in 1930, he went to Reading Blue Coat School as a day boy, becoming a boarder there the following year when his mother followed her husband to Africa.

A pupil-teacher at RBCS

And at the age of 15 he was taken on by the headmaster as a pupil-teacher. In return, he received full board and lodging and £2 pocket money each month. When war broke out, while he was studying to go to university, his duties were extended to include fire-watching and air raid precautions.

He was 19 when he went to Reading University in 1940 to study science. He joined the Air Training Squadron in 1941 and at the end of his first university year he applied to join the RAF for aircrew training.

With his first flight, on 3 November, 1941, began the despair of suffering air sickness. Not one to give in easily however, he managed to overcome the nausea and, taking off on Stearmans, BT 135 (Vulzee Vallent) and AT6 Harvards, he finally accumulated his 187 hours dual, solo and night flying, earned his wings and was promoted to sergeant.

Returning to Britain, he started his photographic reconnaissance career more by accident than design. He started



his career at RAF Fraserburgh on a Supermarine Spitfire, camouflaged to dodge the German aircraft.

The PR Spitfires carried no guns but were fitted with internal and external fuel tanks, allowing them to power away from danger. They also had a range of 1,750 miles but with no pilot relief tube and sorties often lasting five hours, the fliers had to develop extreme bladder control.

He left for Malta in 1942, joining 69 Squadron. His key tasks were to monitor and photograph all the enemy's land, sea and air forces, especially in North Africa and to get coverage of the three main Italian naval bases at Taranto, Naples and Messina, whenever an allied convoy was due to set off from Gibraltar or Alexandria.

Preparing for invasion

Durbidge was involved in pre-invasion reconnaissance of landing beaches in Sicily in 1943 and that February was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. Soon after he was commissioned as a pilot officer.

By this time he had survived a couple of attempts at sabotage; been strafed overnight in the desert while his plane was awaiting repair; spotted more than 100 Junkers Ju52/3m German transport planes on an airfield at Naples and realised that the Germans were trying to supply Rommel by air as sea efforts had failed. Subsequently, almost all the transport planes were destroyed by fighters from Malta.

On one occasion, having had to land in Bone in Algeria because there was something wrong with his plane, and surviving with his colleagues in Malta on very meagre rations, he went out and bought as many oranges as he could cram into his Spitfire for the return journey.

With the war in North Africa over, he was posted back to the UK as a PR flying instructor at Lulsgate Bottom in Somerset and then to Dyce, to train

pilots, before going to RAF Benson, flying over Norway and France and looking for V1 and V2 sites. He joined 542 Spitfire PR Squadron in 1944 flying Mk X and Mk XI Spitfires, and later the powerful Griffon-engined Mk 19.

When he was sent to assess bomb damage in the Ruhr following an RAF raid, he had just taken his photographs and turned for home when he saw a vast armada of planes coming towards him. The 50 US Fortresses, escorted by Mustangs, didn't recognise him as an ally and he was attacked. Thanks to the Griffon engine he was able to climb quickly away to safety.

On another occasion, he avoided being blown up by a Messerschmidt rocket by just 15 seconds by flying into cloud and circling on instruments until he estimated the enemy were out of fuel.

In Hitler's bunker

At the end of the war, he was sent to Berlin to fly documents back to Churchill and entered Hitler's bunker, bringing home two of his crystal glasses.

His immense skills were recognised in March 1945 when he received the Distinguished Flying Cross from King George VI.

The following month he married his wife Buntyn and after the war he became an instructor for the Nigerian Air Force and later the Highland Aero Club in Inverness, where his students included Pink Floyd's lead singer, Dave Gilmour.

A Highland Aero Club trophy for aerobatic skills and other flying skills is named and awarded annually in Durbidge's honour.

Relaxed, modest, amusing and charming to a fault, he was greatly admired for his exploits in the sky both in wartime and in civilian life. He was widowed last year and is survived by his children Sheila, Chris and Nonny and four grandchildren.

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Public recognition for School's talented artist teacher Richard Ennis



From the west side to a right royal portrait

Richard Ennis is raising funds for Cancer Research UK by selling reproductions of a fine new painting of Holme Park as seen from the back lawn.

He fell in love with the view when he first came to Sonning for interview, and realising that it had perhaps never been painted before, worked hard on this canvas which captures the feel of a sunny summer's afternoon at the School.

Richard hopes to make available both reproductions on canvas and prints at A3 and A4 size. More information from RNE@rbcs.org.uk.

Another of his recent works is this fine portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, which was shortlisted in a national competition run by the *Daily Mail*.