

# The Radley Foundation

When Warden Morgan phoned me in the summer of 1997 and asked me to help him create the Foundation at Radley, I was thrilled to accept the challenge but never imagined for one moment that eleven years later I would become its Development Director. Back then (as now!) there was never a dull moment as Richard and I set about things with a vengeance and started to define the structure of the new Foundation.

We looked at four other schools, picked the best from their foundations, avoided the pitfalls and mixed a formula that we felt would be workable at Radley. Within a short time we had a blueprint for creating the

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*“Some day the appeal must be made if Radley is to maintain its position without raising its fees so much as to exclude many who should be the Radleians of the future.” (1928)*

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Foundation and reinvigorating the Radleian Society, so essential for keeping in touch with ORs. The Radley Foundation was finally born in July 2000 out of The Friends of Radley Trust, that august body that had masterminded successful appeals for Dennis Silk and Richard Morgan. The Sewell Centre, Silk Hall, Queen’s Court and the Library are a few of the astonishing achievements of those memorable appeals which transformed the Radley campus.

As a member of Council and a Trustee of the Foundation from its inception, I have watched with admiration as the Foundation has developed over the last eight years. Thanks to the considerable generosity of ORs, parents and other supporters, successive Directors have raised £3.5m in cash gifts and received legacy pledges of £2.6m, making a total of £6.1m. The Trustees have been able to allocate money to the building of the new Theatre (£895k) and the Sports Clubhouse (£207k) and to finance fifteen Foundation Awards.

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*“The whole outward aspect of College changed in the 1930s and there was a general air of cleanliness and order. No longer did old baths and derelict boilers nestle in the quad; gone were the ruts and dust clouds on the drive and the College ash-tip no longer greeted visitors on their way to Chapel. Radley had gained something new – a sense of well-being, a corporate self-respect; a belief that sensible and vigorous minds were working against the makeshift, the obsolete and the broken-down towards a great future.” (1937)*

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No school can ever stand still and expect to remain in the top flight; the never-ending search for improvements must continue at an even faster pace and the Radley Foundation has to be at the heart of this ambition. Since arriving full-time last April, I have been deeply impressed by the positive ‘can do’ attitude in Common Room, the total absence of complacency and the constant desire to do things better. As a parent of a boy in the Removes, it is a privilege to see the Dons taking infinite care and time to monitor the academic and social development of each and every pupil. Radley is

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*“Warden Wilkes was an ardent believer in the duty of public schools to share their benefits with others less fortunate” (1942)*

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truly a remarkable school and it is absolutely right that one of our aims is to provide bursary funds to secure a Radley education for talented boys whose parents could not otherwise afford the fees. This will involve the development of even closer ties with local primary schools to encourage more of their parents to consider



Anthony Robinson on the pitches

Radley for their sons. The Choristership scheme already reaches out to some, but we must do more.

We now need to accelerate the progress of the Foundation and this can only be achieved with your help. Top of the list of priorities is the Bursaries campaign launched last month, where we are seeking to build up the Silk Fund by £1.4m this year to fund more boys into Radley; we are off to a good start, having raised £250k since last September. Alongside this is the Hugo Rutland Memorial Fund – a fighting fund for the parents of current Radleians who experience unexpected financial crisis. In the present economic climate there may well be some in need of help, so we are hoping to raise a further £270k by the end of 2009.

In addition to bursaries, it is important for the Foundation to support a wide range of College projects so that potential donors can make a gift to something they feel strongly about. Council continues to have many ideas for the future development of Radley which I will explain in more detail when the time is right. Suffice to say, projects under consideration include the refurbishment and redesign of Socials A to H, a major redevelopment of the Old Gym site, new rowing facilities in the heart of the College for when the river is unusable through flooding and an additional Astro pitch for hockey and tennis.

The Radley Foundation belongs to all ‘Friends of Radley’, be they Old Radleians, Dons, parents, former parents

or members of the wider Radley family, and it is down to us to make it succeed. The need is greater and more pressing today than ever before; the College campus makes us look like a wealthy school but we are not – the Reserve Fund is limited and insufficient to finance the bursaries and improvements planned for the future. The Foundation will have to bridge the gap and your support both now and in the coming years will be crucial to our development. Legacies will also play a vital role in

building our endowment and we are developing a programme of support in line with all the other activities of the Foundation.

When I heard a year ago that the Warden, Angus McPhail, was looking for a new Development Director, I could not resist throwing my hat into the ring. Like most wet-bobs, I love a challenge and I sensed this was a very important one. I feel passionately about the place – it certainly turned me around aged sixteen and gave me the essential tool-kit for life and I am eternally grateful.

The Foundation must succeed and I am determined to do everything I can to make that happen. We have a strong team including Jock Mullard and

Hamish Aird – two wise owls steeped in Radley – and a talented group of Trustees, led by Richard Morgan as Chairman. Every generation of Radleians benefits from the generosity of its predecessors and their parents. Please help us to build the Radley Foundation into the best in the country.

Anthony Robinson  
Development Director

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*“Gaudy of 1904 was one of the biggest days in the School’s history, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Randall Davidson) being the guest of honour. The Drive was ‘tastefully decorated with flags’ for his arrival. After the lunch there was the usual garden party in the usual perfect weather, with hundreds more guests for the concert and the ices, and Evensong to complete the day. It will be understood that it has always been one of Radley’s difficulties to convince the world that it is a poor school, without endowments.”*

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*All quotes are from A K Boyd’s History of Radley*

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