



## **ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

“Otia Tuta”

### **HON VICE-PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS**

I accepted the position of VP to allow Andy Redwood to be able to step down due to ill health, and to complete his term in office until the next elections. We thank Andy for all the work he has done for the Association over the past few years and wish him well in his recovery.

As a former teacher at RHS my focus is drawn to those leaving the School and university and at the beginning of their careers. The current economic headwinds make that more challenging. I will be interested in all ideas where the Association can offer help, we have a vast array of careers and wealth of expertise and skills between us, which can be of benefit our leavers.

As a start, I would like us to assemble an RHS Business Directory so our Members can see what we collectively offer. I hope we can use the geolocation technology to make it a more accessible resource. For leavers hopefully access to careers advice, internships, apprenticeships et al. I know we are willing to share, but the ones who need it need to know how to access it, and the directory will be a way of showing our leavers what is out there for them.

On the same model perhaps emerging from the Business Directory, a more focused one featuring entrepreneurs, again geolocated. Those who are venturing into the world of start-ups could tap into the experience and foresee the pitfalls of those who have set up their own businesses.

I hope to work closely with the Alumni Office to find ways in which we can connect our Directory with the younger Members, perhaps even asking if I can talk to the sixth form myself. Although part of the problem myself, it would be good to change the perception of the Association just being something of the ‘Old and Bold’, to that of a fantastic supportive resource for our younger Members.

Several years ago, when Brigadier Beaton was the VP, we set up the RHSA Charitable Foundation, whose objects were to create bursaries which would preserve the social diversity that characterises RHS and makes all our young people grounded and unpretentious. It was primarily targeted at the children of seafarers from similar backgrounds to many of us. The Centennial Bursary Fund is an ambitious development from that, aiming to provide 100 bursaries for deserving young people from similarly modest backgrounds, again like many of us, helping to maintain that social diversity we are justly proud of. It will not be restricted just to seafarer families, although I hope that they will have priority in any selection process.

Martin ‘Monty’ Callow  
Hon Vice-President