

# Report of the Membership Secretary to the AGM

Saturday 12 November 2022

## Thanks

At the outset, I would place on record my thanks to Lucy Pembroke who left the Royal Hospital School earlier this year after many years working with the RHSA. Lucy has been a source of great support throughout my time as MemSec – forever on hand, at the end of the phone, to give advice and answer the most obvious questions! A diplomatic and enthusiastic colleague who always endeavoured and succeeded in bringing the RHSA and School closer together. We wish her well in her new appointment.

**Lucy's replacement is Lauren Bayliss-Fuller who joined in July 2022 as** Head of Community Relations and Alumni Royal Hospital School. A warm welcome.

I would also like to thank Gavin Stone (Director of External Relations) for his support while he was in post, he left RHS in January this year.

Also retiring earlier this year from the RHSA GC was Andrew Redwood (St Vincent 1971 – 79). Andy served as our Vice President and steered the RHSA through the past few years. I know he worked tirelessly throughout his term of office. His leadership was proactive and the RHSA and GC greatly appreciates all he has done. We wish him well.

Taking up the challenge as Vice President is Martin "Monty" Callow (Drake 1967 – 74) an old classmate from 1U. Monty's wide experience, as a former teacher and in Alumni relations will be a real benefit to the RHSA. Welcome aboard.

Thanks also Katie Gould in the Development Office for their ongoing support.

In addition, my colleagues on the GC deserve recognition – Nick Gill, Aimee Frankham and Stephen Traynor we have continued to work closely with the school to ensure things haven't just stood still.

One final thanks go to Claire Waugh, Howard Redwood and Brian Gatward for all their work as volunteers with the Heritage Centre and digitalising the Admission Books. This has been and remains very time-consuming work and is really appreciated. As is the work of Maggie Good in assisting with the input of historical data onto InTouch.

I am very well supported in my role by all these people.

I am happy to answer members' questions during the AGM or via email after the meeting.

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Thank you

The Membership Secretary is responsible for:

### **1. Developing and implementing a membership strategy.**

All ex-students automatically become Life Members of the RHSA when they leave the school, irrelevant of their year of leaving. Their basic data is transferred during the summer and undertaken by Lucy Pembroke

Exceptionally someone writes to state they do not want to be a member. If this happens then their data would remain on the InTouch database but the person would have not contact from the RHSA or the Development Office (InTouch is the database that we use for keeping membership records).

## **2. Keeping the membership records up to date.**

This is undertaken on a regular basis when information comes to light. I frequently receive emails addressed to "memsec"; or information via the RHSA FB site; the GC team share updates between us; I get details passed on by word and mouth. The Development Office also regularly up-date records. On-line booking for events also helps InTouch records to be updated.

The Gidge" also helps to keep young and old alike informed and in touch with the RHSA and Development Office. You can get your online copy at:

<https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/alumni-news>

Recent demises are recorded in the accompanying word document. Since my last report the death of 128 RHSA Alumni have been recorded

24 in 2022

44 in 2021

9 in 2020

7 in 2019

8 in 2018

The remaining 36 are pre- 2017 and range from 1942 – 2017

Since 2016 over 3500 RHSA Alumni deaths have been recorded.

The following old boys are the most recent additions and do not appear in the full list

Norman Edward Adshead (Drake); born 1941; died 27th May 2018

Dennis Raymond Clarke (Hood); born 1944; died 15th October 2018

David Alexander Dunstan Field (St Vincent); born 1946; died 4th February 2015

Nicholas Richard Field (St Vincent); born 1944; died 2019

William John Harley (Drake); born 1941; died 1st November 2021

Peter Eric Howse (Hawke); born 1934; died 2018

Terence Douglas Hunt (Anson); born 1939; died 2nd January 2018

Iain Klar (Blake); born 1971; died 7th August 2022

Brian Thomas MacLaren (Anson); born 1931; died 11th November 2020)

Stanley Milbank (St Vincent); born 1922; died 2021

James Anthony Rice (Hawke); born 1949; died 14th January 2021

Alfred Lawrence Joseph Anthony Skee (Blake); born 1929; died 20th January 2021

### **Continued action for the future:**

Keeping the membership records up to date is an important ongoing job and so I will continue to be to use family history websites such as Ancestry, MyHeritage and other sources to try and trace and record data of former students (deceased or living).

### **Finding members who we have lost contact with.**

As well as researching older records there has been a continued push to encourage participation via dedicated FB groups. There is no doubt that this can bring old friends together and enable memories, photos and posts to be shared. These groups always complement the official RHSA FB groups

The most recent dedicated FaceBook group is [St. Vincent House Alumni](#) currently with 190 members

The official RHSA FB page attracts frequent queries and comments. I am grateful for to Aimee Frankham for following up on the many posts we receive. It is a useful resource for keeping in touch.

We continue to keep in touch with our very senior members but working with the student body and house parents and sending birthday cards for those reaching their 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

There are still many missing addresses for those born in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s but we are doing our best to reach out to our older members.

### **Action for the future:**

1. Continuance of the removal of duplicates from the InTouch database. Updating inaccurate data entry
2. Continue promoting the use of the RHS digital archive <http://rhsarchives.daisy.websds.net/>

### **3. Conducting correspondence with regard to membership with Members and the School.**

This is covered by No 2 above 3

### **4. Liaising with Branch General Secretaries regarding their members.**

- a. This is now a reduced part of my role and the work of the RHSA in general. Improved communications including email & social media – in particular, FaceBook and LinkedIn mean that members can keep in touch more easily and network.
- b. The intake of more recent members is now much more geographically dispersed so “branches” in the traditional sense tend not to operate. However, the Portsmouth Branch still retains a greater concentration of older former students and continues to operate. The Plymouth Branch is not very active – as long serving committee members retire – it has proved difficult to find younger people to attend and/or organise meetings and functions. The London/South East & East Anglian branches are thriving and utilise FB for helping to organise events and disseminate information

### **5. Recruiting new members from the School and from ex-pupils of the School who are not currently Members.**

My understanding now is that all former students of the RHS are automatically members of the RHSA. However someone occasionally slips through the net and doesn't appear on the database.

Some Alumni of course do not wish to be part of the RHSA and their wishes are fully respected