

GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



~~~~~ NAVIGATING SUCCESS ~~~~~

# THE CENTENNIAL FUND

## YOUR GIFT TO THE FUTURE

Help us honour our founding values of service and loyalty by supporting bursaries for children of alumni, those with maritime or services backgrounds and cared for children from our ancestral home, the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

With your support we will enrich the proud legacy of Gifford Sherman Reade by changing an additional 100 lives by 2033, the centenary of the School's move to Holbrook.

Together we can create the change. To sign up please visit [www.royalhospitalschool.org/supportus](http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/supportus)

For more information please speak to Simon Marsh in the Alumni and Development Office on 01473 326150 or email [smarsh@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:smarsh@royalhospitalschool.org)



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GIDGE Magazine is sent free to RHS pupils, past and present and is available for download at [www.royalhospitalschool.org/gidge](http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/gidge).

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Cover photo by Will Rogers ([www.supboardermag.com](http://www.supboardermag.com))  
 RHS alumna Hannah Stodel is a 3x World Champion and 4x Paralympian. Her current challenge is to be the first disabled sailor ever to take on the Vendée Globe. We wish you the very best, Hannah!



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## WELCOME TO ISSUE ONE

**I FEEL VERY LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE RHS COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST 24 YEARS NOW; IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THE SCHOOL, AND ABOUT THE EDUCATION IT PROVIDES.**

So when I was asked to be part of the team producing the first issue of *Gidge*, the new magazine for alumni of RHS, I was both flattered and delighted. What could be better than applying my professional skills to a project that celebrates the achievements and recollections of a community that is so dear to me?

Flicking through the proofs on my desk, as I write this introduction, I'm struck at the many and varied ways in which the former pupils of RHS have made their mark on the world. In this issue you'll read the stories of a four-times Paralympian, the CEO of a ground-breaking construction company, and a textile designer – amongst others – in addition to news and memories from around the globe (and from RHS itself, too, of course).

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Gidge* as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. Please do let us know what you think – this is your magazine, and we'd love to hear your ideas and input, which will help us make future issues just as compelling.

**ENJOY!**

**Rebecca Winward (Cornwallis, 1997)**  
 Guest Editor  
 Freelance journalist, editor and copywriter



## WELCOME

**TO THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF *GIDGE* MAGAZINE! AS YOU LOOK AT THESE PAGES, I HOPE YOU WILL GET A SENSE OF THE CHARACTER OF OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY, AND ALSO OF THE INSPIRATION YOU GIVE TO OUR PUPILS.**

Your collective pride in RHS and your various achievements since leaving make me very proud to be at the helm of such a great school. The values we share of service, courage, self-discipline, respect for others, integrity and loyalty are as relevant to the education we provide today as they were to each generation that has gone before. This in turn becomes the professional and personal ethos that makes RHS alumni stand out from the crowd.

As we can see in this edition, RHS-educated men and women are today pioneers of commerce and industry, science and technology, and the arts – and they protect individuals, organisations and nations at sea, on land and within virtual worlds.

My grateful thanks go to all our contributors, but particular recognition must be given to our guest editor, Rebecca Winward (Cornwallis, 1997), and to Lucy Pembroke for coordinating this fantastic magazine; it's truly a step-change in the way we bring our RHS community closer together. You are, and always will be, our most important advocates.

**Simon Lockyer,**  
 Headmaster

# Save the date

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF OUR FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## REUNIONS

### REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

**Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 November 2019**

Saturday kicks off (literally) with an Old Boys' rugby match, lunch follows, then in the afternoon there's a mixed hockey match played by alumni vs pupils. Celebrations or commiserations take place later at the Staff Shed, where a curry is served, and the late-night afterparty is at Isaacs in Ipswich.



Sunday is a more formal affair, with Divisions and the Service of Remembrance, followed by a dedication at the RHSA Memorial. A delicious Sunday lunch

follows, before everyone heads home exhausted, but with full stomachs and happy memories.

### ARMY VS NAVY

**Saturday 2 May 2020**

Tickets to this sell-out event go on sale in December. Make sure we have your contact details so you're one of the first to be notified, before details are posted on social media.



### REUNION WEEKEND

**Friday 29 – Sunday 31 May 2020**

Next year we are introducing a new format and a new date. We'll be focusing on 2010, 1995 and 1970 leavers, although of course all years are invited. You can choose to arrive on Friday evening or Saturday morning, and have the option of staying in Cornwallis House for the duration of the weekend, departing after brunch on Sunday. A full programme of activities will be on offer, including swimming, golf, tennis, a film screening in the Assembly Hall, and a formal dinner and disco.

### DIVISIONS, LEAVERS' SONGS OF PRAISE, SPORTS DAY

**Saturday 20 June 2020**  
You are invited to attend Divisions followed by the Leavers' Songs of Praise service. Lunch will be served in the Dining Hall, followed by an opportunity to watch Sports Day, and enjoy afternoon tea in the flat top pavilion. There will also be an opportunity to view the excellent GCSE and A Level Art, Design & Technology and Textiles work.

**DO TRY TO COME ALONG TO ONE (OR ALL!) - WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU.**

## PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

These evening events are for all RHS alumni, whether in further education, just starting out in the world of work, or with established careers. The aim is to come together to share work experiences, offer guidance, and make new connections within the RHS community.



We will be holding networking evenings in London on 19 November 2019, 18 February 2020 and 19 May 2020. Events will also take place in Nottingham on 22 October 2019, Edinburgh on 10 March 2020, and Portsmouth on 2 June 2020.

### A WARM WELCOME

Many alumni and their families visit us informally each year. If you are passing through, over on holiday, or in the area on business, you are very welcome to visit RHS – please just drop us a line beforehand to let us know you're coming, so we can arrange a tour and welcome you properly.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOKINGS, OR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HOST ONE OF OUR NETWORKING EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS) OR CALL ALUMNI GURU LUCY PEMBROKE ON 01473 326110.**

# ALUMNI SURVEY:

## RESULTS ARE IN!

*Back in March we asked for feedback on our alumni programme and events, and invited additional suggestions too.*

*We were delighted with the sizeable response, and all of the ideas!*

*The winner of the iPad – picked at random from all our respondents – was David Price (Drake, 1963), pictured with Lucy Pembroke.*



## TO GET US STARTED, HERE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT OUR ALUMNI SHARED WITH US:



**Friendship is the most valuable thing I've learnt from RHS. My friends mean the world to me and are my genuine extended family. Those relationships start at RHS and continue throughout life.**



**I think the School's efforts with alumni have been superb. It's great that they are engaging more people in School initiatives which help prepare students for the world of work.**



**RHS holds some of the fondest memories of my life, I can't wait for my daughter to age another three years so I can apply for her to follow in my footsteps.**



**There are no strangers at RHS, only friends that you have yet to meet.**



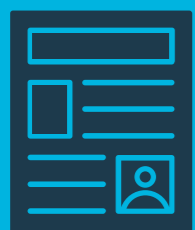
**6 OUT OF 10**

SAID THAT AN ALUMNI NETWORK IS IMPORTANT TO THEM. **75%** OF THOSE WHO SAID IT IS IMPORTANT ALSO SAID THAT THEY FELT CONNECTED TO THE ALUMNI NETWORK.



**95%**

PREFER EMAIL AS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION



**64%**

WOULD LIKE A PAPER VERSION OF THE E-GIDGE (SO HERE IT IS!)



MANY OFFERED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE – HERE'S WHAT THEY SAID THEY'D BE HAPPY TO ASSIST WITH:

- 65%** CAREERS FAIR AND LIFE SKILLS TALKS
- 46%** MENTORING
- 38%** MOCK INTERVIEWS
- 29%** SCIENCE FAIR AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TALKS
- 25%** CV CLINICS
- 21%** INTERNSHIPS



WE ASKED WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT ADOPTING A NEW ERA/CLASS REUNION APPROACH

"BRILLIANT – SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES ALWAYS GENERATE GREATER INTEREST."

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTRACT YOUNGER ALUMNI AND THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY OF DOING THAT, BUT WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE REST OF THE ALUMNI DON'T FEEL EXCLUDED."

"GOOD IDEA. I'D LIKE TO SEE THE EVENT HELD AT RHS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PERHAPS WITH ACCOMMODATION OFFERED IN ONE OF THE BOARDING HOUSES, TO KEEP THE COST AFFORDABLE."



*Our sincere thanks to the 500 alumni who responded.*



THE WINNER OF THE FOUR RUGBY TICKETS WAS ANDREW SELMER (BLAKE, 1969) WITH THIS FANTASTIC MEMORY:

"PERFORMING IN FRONT OF THE QUEEN MOTHER IN FULL PANCAKE MAKEUP, HAVING JUST RUN STRAIGHT FROM GILBERT AND SULLIVAN AND INTO THE GYM DISPLAY TEAM!"

THESE MIGHT TRIGGER SOME MEMORIES TOO:

"I WAS PART OF THE TEAM OF 90 THAT DID THE SKIPPING ON RECORD BREAKERS – I'M VERY PROUD OF IT TO THIS DAY. JUST GUTTED THAT WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY GET INTO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS BECAUSE THAT JAPANESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEAT US BEFORE THE NEXT ISSUE WAS PRINTED!"

"THE CELEBRITY CRICKET MATCH FOR CHARITY. I GAVE ANITA DOBSON A ROSE AND SHE KISSED ME ON THE CHEEK. BRIAN MAY WAS RIGHT NEXT TO HER!"



A RESOUNDING **97%** SAID SPIT AND POLISH IS BETTER THAN WATER.

"I USED WATER IN MY SHOE POLISH LID. BUT I'M SURE SPIT WAS BETTER AS EVERYONE'S SHOES WERE SHINIER THAN MINE..."

"SPIT. MY BOOTS WERE THE BEST AT THE KING'S FUNERAL (1952), ACCORDING TO LORD MOUNTBATTEN!"

"CLEAR NAIL VARNISH! LESS EFFORT."

### FAVOURITE MEAL AT RHS?

"BREAKFAST! WHO DOESN'T WANT A FRY-UP EVERY MORNING?"

"BREAD, GUNGE AND FLOP. THERE WAS ALWAYS LOADS OF IT! I THINK I'VE ERADICATED ALL OTHER MEALS FROM MY MIND!"

"FISH AND CHIPS – WHICH MEANT IT WAS FRIDAY WITH A WEEKEND TO FOLLOW!"



### SO HOW DID THE TENNIS BALL GET UP THERE?



"I DON'T KNOW SIR. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VISITOR."

"I KNOW THIS FOR A FACT. A RALEIGH BOY THREW IT UP THERE IN THE EARLY '80S!"

"HOOD BOY DESPERATELY TRYING TO IMPROVE HIS TENNIS TO IMPRESS WALLY CURTIS. SERVE GONE WRONG I RECKON."

"I HAVE BEEN SWORN TO SECRECY, BUT I DO KNOW THE YOUNG MAN CONCERNED – A DRAKE BOY!"

### BEST FOOT FORWARD?

**80%** SAID THEY STEPPED OFF THE LEFT FOOT. WORRYINGLY **2%** DIDN'T KNOW!

**82%** OF THEM ARE WRONG. MONTY CALLOW SAYS: "BY THE LEFT, IS THE LEFT HAND 'STEP'. YOU LEAD WITH YOUR RIGHT FOOT."



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## RHS FIELD GUN TEAM ENJOYS SUCCESS

Lieutenant Commander (Retd) Nigel M Griffiths QGM, who is Head of Ceremonial at RHS, formed the RHS Field Gun Crew just over three years ago, and in that short time the team has gone from strength to strength.

In 2018, the Gun Crew was honoured to include two alumni, Anna Marie Khan (Hood, 2017) and Josh Mellors (Hawke, 2017), who had both competed the previous year. They enjoyed their time on the team so much that they came back to support this year's crew, and offer the benefit of their experience.

Along with trainer Warrant Officer Charlie Lambert – a former RHS parent – the team travelled down to Portsmouth right after Speech Day, to prepare for three gruelling days of hard training and two of competition under the hot July sun.



The RHS Field Gun Crew soon earned a reputation of being a team with discipline, speed and the ability to achieve the coveted 'clean drill' – and were awarded the Endeavour Trophy for the fastest non-military field gun run after being placed third in a tight final.

"It was an awesome result – proving that the RHS Field Gun Crew had all the attributes associated with the Naval Service Core Values and Standards (Commitment, Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity and Loyalty)," said Nigel Griffiths. "The crew worked very hard during the week and winning the Endeavour Trophy is a tribute to their sheer determination and dedication to do well for each other and work together as a team."

## CLAIRE CRACKS THE CODE ON GDPR

Claire Banwell-Spencer (Howe, 1995) visited Nelson House in September 2018, to give a talk to the Year 13 pupils about her journey after RHS – in particular to inspire girls how to apply an RHS education to a business environment.



Claire is a qualified barrister and solicitor with a passion for developing practical business solutions to solve complex legal issues. Claire founded Data Solver Ltd in 2016 with a £15,000 start-up grant from Cranfield University. The company provides privacy management software which enables organisations to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018. The firm's mission is to simplify the complexity of compliance using a combination of technology and plain English to drive knowledge, awareness and accountability – which of course is in sync with the RHS mission of 'improving navigation'.

Claire is now based at Bletchley Park, and also maintains good links with Cranfield University. She would be happy to assist alumni in visiting these locations. Please contact the Alumni and Development Office to be put in touch.

## RHS RUGBY SCHOLAR PLAYS IN HISTORIC GAME

Zac Puckey (Cornwallis, 2018), former 1st XV Captain and Head of Rugby, was selected to play for the Edinburgh 2nd XV for the 2018 Scottish Varsity Match against St Andrews, at Murrayfield in front of 10,000 spectators. He was the only freshman to be selected.



The Scottish Varsity Match, between Scotland's two oldest university rugby clubs, dates back more than 150 years and predates the annual Oxford versus Cambridge Varsity Match. Formed in 1857, Edinburgh University RFC is one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world.

"It was a great honour to be selected to play for the 2nd XV as a fresher in the oldest varsity match in the world," Zac said. "The team came through and secured a convincing victory, which set our season off to a good start. For next year's varsity, my aim is to push on to gain a starting berth for the 1st XV."

## OLIVER TACKLES DEVIZES-WESTMINSTER FOR CHARITY

Oliver Ainsworth (Collingwood, 2013) and colleague Matthew Hague, who both work at Strutt & Parker's Ipswich office, took part in the Devizes to Westminster Race in April 2019 to raise money for two local charities.

Known as the 'marathon of kayaking', the race starts at Devizes Wharf, and follows the Kennet and Avon Canal for 54 miles to Reading, where it joins the Thames. Another 54 miles takes the competitors to Teddington Lock, and 17 miles later the course ends at Westminster Bridge. The pair's target was to complete the 125-mile race in under 28 hours.

They reached their target of £5,000 for two charities – The Charlie Watkins Foundation, which was set up in memory of a life-long friend of Oliver's who died in 2017 due to depression, and the Suffolk Community Foundation, which acts as a philanthropic hub in order to direct funds to a huge range of small local charities throughout Suffolk.

"We had three main goals – to complete the race, to raise our target and to raise awareness of our charities," explained Oliver. "Our final position was 77th out of 114, with a very respectable time of 26 hours and 20 minutes."



## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Fireside Chats at RHS is a programme designed to encourage pupils to gain valuable insights from alumni in leading and pioneering fields.

This year we heard about six excellent alumni journeys which have challenged and inspired more than 100 pupils. We kicked off in September with Tom Pratt (St Vincent, 1998) from Google, who took pupils on a fascinating journey of what is behind the ubiquitous Google 'search' identity.

In December, Professor Alan Thornhill (Hawke, 1986) led a challenging discussion on the ethics of his field, reproductive biology and genetics, and the surprising breadth of career opportunities in science – many not requiring a lab or white coat! In January, Paul Jones (Collingwood, 1987) gave an altogether different perspective, one from the air! Paul holds a senior position at NATS, the UK's leading provider of air traffic control services.

The breadth of Fireside Chats widened even further in March when activist, campaigns consultant, founder of WeHuddle, and former Head of School Kat Sladden (Hood, 2002) visited RHS.

Kat offered pupils career advice on journalism and communications, working with charities and NGOs, plus a tip or two for those aiming for Cambridge, her own alma mater. "I really enjoyed sharing my story with pupils, and hearing about their ambitions and views on a range of issues including feminism, environmentalism, privilege and protest," she said.

## RHS PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAMME SUCCESS

Our professional networking programme saw three events held in London and two regionally, in Edinburgh and Portsmouth, during the academic year 2018/19. These events are open to RHS alumni and enable former pupils to share work experiences, offer or seek careers guidance, and network within the RHS community.

Those under the age of 25 are invited to arrive early to hear from our industry ambassadors about the journey which took them to their current role. Those over the age of 25 arrive a little later, and the networking begins. Many thanks to all the industry ambassadors who have represented the textile, insurance, finance, entrepreneurship, marketing, digital media, and technology industries, and a special thank you to event hosts Tom Anderson (Collingwood, 1994), Tom Woolf (Hawke, 1998), David White (Collingwood, 1998) and Andrew Polson (Cornwallis, 1966).



## REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND DRAWS RECORD ATTENDANCE

Remembrance Weekend 2018 saw record numbers of alumni attending on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, with close to 370 registered to attend all or part of the weekend.

The reunion event began with the annual Old Boys' rugby match, after which the Tony Witham 'Top Drawer' Award (Tony always recognised things which went unnoticed) was given to Alex Hawkins (St Vincent, 1992). The Kes Poolton Shield for the 'Spirit of Rugby' was awarded to a very surprised Lucy Pembroke, while the Stephen Lineham 'Man of the Match' was Darren Archbold (Drake/Nelson, 1990), who had travelled from California to attend the reunion. Later that day, a service took place in memory of former Head of Ceremonial Les Dryden, conducted by Revd. Canon Kevan McCormack, former Chaplain at RHS.

The afternoon saw a mixed RHSA hockey team take on a mixed RHS hockey team, with Andrew Dotchin (Collingwood, 1974) putting in a fantastic effort as goalie in his first hockey match of the 21st century! Both teams played an outstanding match, with the RHSA team winning by only one goal. The Best Player Award went to Ben Allday (Collingwood, 2013).

On Sunday, 90 alumni formed three RHSA squads to take part in Divisions, one of the largest in living memory. Taking the salute was Commodore R J Anstey MA, who is currently the Assistant Chief of Staff (Submarines). He is also a former RHS parent, as his children Daniel (St Vincent, 2011), Rebecca (Howe, 2013) and William (St Vincent, 2015) attended the School. He took the time to inspect the RHSA contingent.

After the Chapel service, many gathered around the RHSA Memorial, to not only remember those fallen, but to scatter the ashes of Bernard de Neumann (Nelson, 1963), whose final wish was to be laid to rest at RHS. Sunday lunch followed, where lots of memories were shared, followed by many fond farewells and plenty of 'see you next year'.



George Franks  
photography

## REUNION: SUMMER 2019

Another fantastic reunion weekend took place in June 2019, with over 120 alumni attending. In particular, a large contingent of those who were 'new Jacks' in 1973 joined us, some of whom had not seen each other for over 45 years.

This year saw the General Committee elections take place, with the majority of the outgoing GC all re-elected for another three year term – apart from Kevin Beaton OBE QHP (Collingwood, 1979) who after five years has stood down as Vice President. He is replaced by Andy Redwood (St Vincent 1979).

Drinks were served on the Dias before Sunset, and outgoing Vice President of the RHSA, Brigadier Kevin Beaton, presented RHSA Heads of School medals to Adam Warren (Hawke) and Holly Folkard-Smith (Hood). The Sunset Ceremony Salute was taken by Captain Lucy Vollentine RN (Hood/Cornwallis 1993).

At the formal dinner, new Vice President Andy Redwood awarded Kevin Beaton with an Honorary Vice President Life Membership to the RHSA, in recognition of his work over the last five years. Sophie Braybrooke, Director of Communications, who leaves after 13 years at RHS, was awarded an RHSA Honorary Life Membership.

Sunday saw a squad of nearly 40 take part in Divisions, their display of marching was so impressive, you would never have known that some had not marched in over 50 years! The weekend concluded with Leavers' Songs of Praise, lunch in the Dining Hall, and School Sports Day.



## CLASS OF 2017

On Saturday 20 December around 35 of the 'Class of 2017' attended a reunion at The Curve Bar in Ipswich. There was a real buzz as former classmates reconnected, some having not seen each other since they left in July 2017.

Most were at university, studying a diverse range of subjects including architecture, dentistry, anthropology, music and land management. Some had gone straight into the world of work, with careers in a

variety of sectors, from graphic design to the border and armed forces – the year group showcasing brilliantly the range of careers our alumni choose today.

"I really enjoyed finding out what people had been up to on their gap year, the places they had visited and the things they saw," said Freddie Braybrooke (Collingwood, 2017). "Those of us who went to the same places were also able to share similar stories about what we got up to!"



## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Mrs Sarah Williamson, teacher of PE, Miss Liz Polson (Howe, 2004), teacher of Business – who both previously served in the armed services – and parent Aimee Frankham (Cornwallis, 1995), owner of Amano Tailors in Malmesbury, attended a Riddle Society meeting in December 2018, to speak on the topic of leadership.

They had some very interesting perspectives to share with pupils in Years 7 to 9, both on leadership as women in the military, and on leading a business in a heavily male-orientated profession. Liz and Sarah talked about the stresses and pressures of leading male soldiers, older than themselves, while conducting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while Aimee talked about leadership on the shop floor and in the local community (she is also the Chairman of Malmesbury Chamber of Commerce).

The pupils worked in groups to discuss the challenges faced in leadership, and some interesting discussions took place regarding gender and responsibilities in power.

## ALUMNI BRING SCIENCE TO LIFE

The annual Year 8 Science Fair is always an enjoyable, entertaining and interesting event as pupils explore their own hypotheses, experiment, and demonstrate a plethora of scientific phenomena.

This year we recruited alumni from the science and healthcare sectors to assist in the difficult task of deciding a winner. Thanks go to Gemma Seabright (Cornwallis, 2011), who is completing her PhD with the University of Oxford (and spending time at Southampton researching a vaccine for HIV); Professor Alan Thornhill (Hawke, 1986), Country Manager for IGenomix UK, a private medical laboratory providing innovative tests to improve reproductive health; and Adam Power (Anson, 1982), who is a business leader and pioneer of innovations in healthcare – notably surgical instruments and robotics. It was a tough decision, but congratulations to Charlotte, Amelia, Mathilda and Josephine for winning first place.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ALUMNI PASS OUT FROM SANDHURST

In July 2018, Natasha Scott (Howe, 2017) was commissioned into the Army Reserve with the East Midlands University Officers' Training Corps. In August 2018, Angus Beaton (Collingwood, 2013) and Sophie Murrison (Hood, 2013), successfully completed their Army Officer Training. Sophie was also part of the team representing Sandhurst in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at West Point, New York.



### THE CHASE WAS ON

In an interview as Head Boy, Sean Cuddihy (Collingwood, 2015), was asked what three wishes he would like granted after leaving school. One was to "be a contestant on ITV's *The Chase*". His wish was granted when he appeared on the show on Friday 9 November. Sean became interested in general knowledge and



quizzes whilst he was a pupil at RHS, really enjoying the quiz events organised and run by the librarian, Ruth Gitsham.

Sean is currently studying for his Masters in Mathematics, having achieved a First in his third year, and was recently awarded a scholarship for his final year by the Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford.

### SPEECH DAY SALUTE

We were delighted to welcome back our highest ranking alumnus currently serving in the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General J R (Jim) Hockenhill OBE (Raleigh 1982) as the Inspecting Officer for Speech Day Divisions. Jim was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps in 1986 after reading politics at the University of York on a University Cadetship. His subsequent education includes an MA from Cranfield and Visiting Fellow at Pembroke College, Oxford. Following a successful career in December 2018, he assumed the appointment of Chief of Defence Intelligence. His honours include the OBE, MBE, QVVS, US Bronze Star and US Legion of Merit.



### CORNWALLIS REUNION

50 Cornwallis 'Old Boys' returned to RHS to wish their former Housemaster, Ned Long, a happy 88th birthday. The event was the idea of Andrew Polson (1966), and with the help of the RHSA Membership Secretary Mark Lucas. The turnout was fantastic, covering over three decades, with 70 sending their apologies. The event started with a tour of the School followed by afternoon tea in the Heritage Centre. At the dinner, speeches were from Andrew Polson and Tommy (Steve) Farr (1966). Tommy said: "Ned was a father-figure to us all, as we spent more time at School than at home." Keith Rennie (1963) toasted Absent Friends and Cmdr Ron Goddard AFC (1967) invited everyone to take part in the Loyal Toast, in naval tradition, sitting down. The event concluded with lovely memories from Ned who



then spent the rest of the evening chatting with 'his boys'.

# Hannah Stodel: explorer, adventurer, RHS alumna and breaker of barriers



© Robert J Wilson

**THERE MAY BE NO MAPS LEFT TO BE DRAWN, BUT THERE ARE CERTAINLY STILL ADVENTURES TO BE HAD – IN HANNAH’S CASE BY SAILING SINGLE-HANDEDLY (QUITE LITERALLY) AROUND THE GLOBE NON-STOP.**

You have likely heard of Hannah Stodel – such is her sporting success – but did you know she was a sports scholar at RHS, attending from 1998 to 2003? During her time at the School she competed in the 29er, Laser 3000 and Laser 4.7 racing circuits, and represented Great Britain at Junior and Youth levels in World and European Championships in the Mirror and 29er Classes alongside able-bodied sailors.

Hannah’s achievements are impressive: she is a four-times Paralympian, having competed in Athens, Beijing, London and Rio. She is also a three-times World Champion, winning the Mixed Sonar Disabled World Championships in 2005, 2006 and 2015 with fellow British sailors John Robertson and Stephen Thomas.

After the shock announcement that sailing would be dropped from the 2020 Paralympics, Hannah decided instead to accomplish a childhood dream – tackling the Vendée Globe. In August 2020 she will begin to sail the circumference of the Earth: 40,075 kilometres (or 21,638 miles) solo, non-stop, and without assistance.

We spoke to Hannah about her passion for her sport, and her upcoming challenge of tackling the toughest solo race on earth:

**YOU TOOK UP SAILING AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, DID YOU ENJOY IT FROM DAY ONE?**

Most of the time I loved it. Of course there were moments when it was tough, but mastering different skills and performing well is one of the best bits about sailing.

“It’s the 1% that add up’. If I do one thing every day towards my campaign, I know I will get there, so I use that as motivation.”

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TAKE SAILING TO THE NEXT LEVEL?**

I really enjoyed racing, and so it was a natural progression to follow the RYA pathway through the Junior and Youth squads. I also loved following the likes of Ben Ainslie, Iain Percy and Shirley Robertson; I had a firm goal in my mind of getting to the Olympics.

**WERE THERE EVER ANY FORCES PUSHING AGAINST YOUR SUCCESS?**

Yes, absolutely. I remember meeting with one performance manager about my career; he informed me that sailing wasn’t my sport, and that I should try table tennis! It was nice to prove him wrong.

**YOU MUST BE TRAINING EXCEPTIONALLY HARD IN THE BUILD UP TO THE VENDÉE. WHAT IS YOUR SCHEDULE LIKE?**

At the moment, the hardest bit of my campaign is raising the sponsorship, finding people that believe in me as much as I believe in myself. I know I can make it to the Vendée Globe start line, and I know I’m tough enough to finish the race, it’s just putting all the puzzle pieces together to make that happen.

I’m firmly back on the racing circuit here on the south coast, so I’m doing a lot of professional sailing. I’m also coaching, taking my qualifications to become a Yachtmaster Instructor, plus I’m doing keynote and motivational speaking, and of course putting in the hours to keep the campaign running. It’s a crazy busy existence!

**SURELY, YOU MUST HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU DON’T WANT TO TRAIN. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET OUT OF BED?**

I have a saying that easily gets me out of bed most mornings... ‘It’s the 1% that add up’. If I do one thing every day towards my campaign, I know I will get there, so I use that as motivation.

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SITUATION WHEN YOU HAVE WANTED TO GIVE UP? IF SO, WHAT GAVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO FINISH THE TASK?**

Absolutely, there have been some incredibly tough times. I’ve relied on people who have let me down, and I’ve had people try to make me believe that I’m not good enough. I’ve considered quitting, but I believe in finishing what you have started. Most days it just takes a small nudge and I’m back on track. I just look at how far I’ve come to reassure myself, plus I’m a firm believer in the power of positive thinking.

**YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN NUMEROUS DANGEROUS SITUATIONS. HOW DO YOU KEEP MENTALLY STRONG?**

The thing is, when you get in those situations, your mental resilience takes over. I’ve trained to the army’s level of stress exposure, so I know where my limits are, and I also know that I work well under that pressure. When the bad stuff hits the fan, I know I can assess methodically and deal with most things, even if I have a good cry or a swearing fit afterwards!

**WHAT KIND OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON TRYING TO COPE WITH THE PRESSURES OF LIFE TODAY?**

Don’t let anyone into your bubble who you don’t trust 100% to be there for you when you need them. I’ve learnt that the hard way. I also think it’s important we don’t constantly compare ourselves to one another, which is all too easy thanks to social media – it’s not as simple as it sounds to remember that though.

**WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION AND WHY?**

Ellen MacArthur is a huge inspiration. She was told she couldn’t do the Vendée because she was a) a woman, and b) too small, but she ignored that and went and did it anyway. To this day she’s still the highest-placed female and highest-placed British finisher of the race.

I also take a lot of inspiration from everyday people who take on massive challenges that people thought were unattainable.

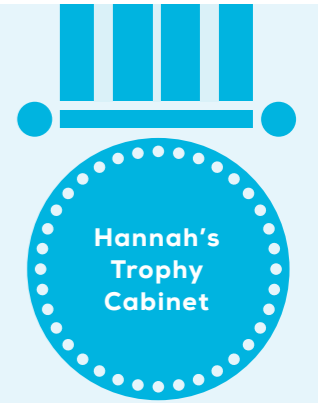
**IF YOU COULD, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

I sacrificed a lot of my own happiness to keep other people happy, so I would remind myself whose life it is. I would also tell myself that I’m an awful lot tougher than I ever gave myself credit for, that I’m a very skilled sailor, and that I should have confidence in my abilities. It’s good to remind ourselves that we are ultimately good enough!

**WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?**

It’s stolen from my Uncle Jamie: ‘Never give up’.

If you would like to make a donation to help Hannah on her journey, visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hannahstodel](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hannahstodel) or [www.gofundme.com/HSRVendee2020](http://www.gofundme.com/HSRVendee2020)



**GOLD FIRST PLACE**  
2005 Sønderborg

**GOLD FIRST PLACE**  
2006 Perth

**GOLD FIRST PLACE**  
2015 Melbourne

**SILVER SECOND PLACE**  
2010 Medemblik

**SILVER SECOND PLACE**  
2011 Weymouth

**BRONZE THIRD PLACE**  
2003 Athens

**BRONZE THIRD PLACE**  
2012 Charlotte Harbour



# 7 YEARS ON...

*What becomes of RHS pupils after graduation? RHS alumni go on to a wide variety of exciting and challenging careers. In each issue we'll meet alumni of seven years and find out where they are at 25 years old. Today Lucy Pembroke checks in with **Annie Murrison**.*



**ANNIE MURRISON (BLAKE) WORKS FOR INFORMA, A MULTINATIONAL EVENTS AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, WHICH HAS AROUND 11,000 EMPLOYEES, AND OFFICES IN 43 COUNTRIES. EMPLOYED AS AN OPERATIONS MANAGER, SHE ORGANISES CONFERENCES AROUND THE WORLD, WITH EACH EVENT CATERING FOR ANYTHING FROM 300 TO 1,500 DELEGATES.**

I caught up with Annie after work, in London, on a sunny spring evening. Annie clearly loves her job; every time she talks about her role, her eyes light up. I'm not surprised she loves it; over the past 12 months she's been involved in organising conferences in places as diverse and far afield as Boston, Lisbon, Berlin, Singapore, Cape Town, Vienna and Los Angeles. She is currently planning events for 2020 in Dubai and Amsterdam. "I love the fact that we are a young team, and all get on so well socially - and that we also get the chance to take time out to explore the cities we work in. I absolutely loved Singapore," Annie explained.

Annie's journey into event management started when teacher Helen Evans suggested that the industry might suit her. Upon completing her A Levels in Media, Photography, and an AS in Textiles, Annie went straight to University of Gloucestershire to study for a Bachelor of Arts in Events Management. Her course was four years long, including a one-year work placement which she spent at RHS, working in the Development Office organising alumni events. She definitely fell in at the deep end - her first event was at the Painted Hall, in the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, where 300 alumni enjoyed a formal dinner as part of the School's Tercentenary Celebrations. Annie was my right-hand person throughout, assisting not only with alumni reunions, but catch-up drinks, a ceilidh and a summer ball.

So how did it feel coming back to somewhere so familiar, in a totally different capacity? "I loved the fact that I knew the place inside out already, which meant I could focus on learning new skills," said Annie. "When I returned to uni so many of my friends had okay placements, but they didn't have as much fun or responsibility as I did. I was so lucky that I was able to get involved with so many different types of events, and even run the university catch-up drinks myself."



Following her 9-month placement at RHS, Annie applied to Camp America, to work as a swim instructor in Vermont. "When I was given the chance to be in a stunning location like Lake Morey for a whole summer, I knew this was an opportunity I couldn't miss," she continues. "It was an amazing experience, which opened my eyes to so much. I learnt the importance of being adaptable and using my initiative. Alongside this my leadership skills grew - and I use them every day when working towards and at events."

Annie completed her final year, graduating with a 2:1 in 2015. She then started her career at GovNet Communications, one of the UK's leading public sector events suppliers. "This job was great for giving me a grounding in the basic skills involved in planning a conference event, which of course I use daily in my current job," she explains. However, although Annie enjoyed the work, she felt that the organisation was not the best fit for her, and dedicated herself to finding some more promising, career-building opportunities.

But first she took some time out to figure out what really mattered. Annie left GovNet Communications and took the opportunity to travel with her boyfriend Ben, spending time in Australia, New Zealand, Bali and Hong Kong. "Travelling gave me the drive to find a job where I could travel and get paid for it, as I realised that was very much what I wanted to be doing," she recalls.

This experience informed Annie's ethos, which is 'work to live not live to work', and has resulted in her finding the right niche for herself at Informa. I asked her whether she is where she had hoped to be at 25, and her answer is a resounding yes. "Definitely. I always knew I wanted to work in London at some point in my life, and being able to do that, as well as travel the globe, is just perfect for me." ■

# New thinking: disrupting the construction industry

*Andrew Shepherd is the CEO of Mid Group, lectures on Construction Finance at the University of Cambridge, and is a regular contributor to government panels.*



All the decisions are made at the design stage, which means we can avoid unnecessary cost and delay when we get on site.



**FOLLOWING A CAREER WHICH INCLUDED SENIOR ROLES AT LAND SECURITIES AND LAING O'ROURKE, ANDREW SHEPHERD (ANSON, 1997) CO-FOUNDED MID GROUP LTD IN 2014. THE COMPANY EXPERIENCED STRONG GROWTH FROM THE START, AND IT IS EXPECTED TO TURN OVER £100M THIS YEAR.**

The calibre of projects is impressive, too. For example, the firm is currently building the largest school in Europe, in Romford, which will accommodate 4,000 pupils.

This sort of stratospheric success has been made possible by taking a disruptive approach to construction – which enabled the company to not only cut budgets, but also reduce build time significantly.

Of course, it took the market some time to catch up. “In one tender I told them I could finish the project in nine months,” Andrew explains. “They didn’t believe me, so I changed the project deadline to 15 months... but ended up completing in nine months anyway.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly for the CEO of an industry disruptor, Andrew is passionate about investing in young people. “They thrive on challenge, and are more able to question things more experienced staff take for granted,” he continues. “Construction is not considered sexy, yet the average salary is £70,000 – a school leaver can start on £22,000, which is also above average. We’ll even pay the cost of a first degree or masters to entice the type of candidate we require.”

Mid Group is not only innovative when it comes to processes and people, communication is very much a 21st century affair, too. “All the decisions are made at the design stage, which means we can avoid unnecessary cost and delay when we get on site. We use VR to enable the client to walk through the building at concept stage, making decisions.”

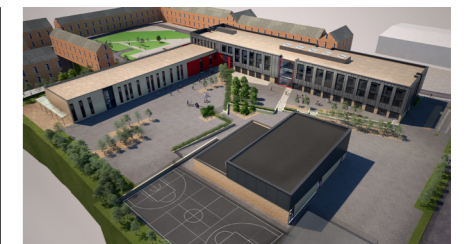
Technology ensures that inter-team communication is optimised, too. The Mid Group App gives every member of the site team access to project drawings on their phone, and teams communicate via WhatsApp for efficiency and speed.

Unusually – and this is the crux of the company’s disruptive approach – all the parts used for building are prefabricated off-site. This means that a building is

completed four times faster than using traditional methods of construction.

Mid Group currently has no direct competitors, so one would think Andrew would keep the secret of his success to himself. But no. He lectures MBA students at the University of Cambridge, revealing much of his fresh approach. “It’s interesting to see that intelligent, experienced people often seem to have lost the ability to question,” he says. His opening gambit is to ask everyone to stand up and turn around. Once they have done that, he asks them “Why did you just do that?” The answer is usually along the lines of “Because that’s what we do.” “Do we?” he smiles. “Well it’s time to challenge your assumptions.”

You can follow [@midgroupltd](#) on Twitter. ■



# Freya Richmond: designs on fashion success



I think to get a First you have to show your confidence in what you do and own it.



**In the studio**  
Freya took A Levels in Photography, Textile Design and History of Art at RHS, before completing a foundation degree at Colchester School of Art, then a degree in Textile Design for Fashion and Business Studies at the University of Brighton.

**DESIGNER RICHARD QUINN IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST NAMES IN FASHION AT THE MOMENT, AND HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS USE OF BOLD PRINTS – PRINTS WHICH HE CREATES WITH HIS IN-HOUSE TEAM OF PRINT DESIGNERS, INCLUDING THE TALENTED FREYA RICHMOND (HOWE, 2012).**

We caught up with Freya to find out more about her exciting and creative career:

**DID YOU KNOW EARLY ON THAT YOU WANTED A CREATIVE CAREER?**

Yes, I certainly did. I did every art subject I possibly could at RHS – photography, textiles, design technology and history of art. With my exceptionally helpful teachers Mrs Hitchen, Mrs Tansley, Mr Hawkey and Mr Ravenhall, and the amazing technicians, I could not go wrong. When I got to my art foundation at Colchester School of Art, and later my BA at University of Brighton, I found that I had already practised many textile techniques more thoroughly than other students had.

**TELL ME HOW YOU CAME TO WORK FOR RICHARD QUINN?**

The job advert was on Fashionworkie.com, and my best friend sent me the link. It was an ad for a screen print technician. I had to bring my portfolio which we discussed in depth, but in fact the interview only lasted 30 minutes. We are only a team of four, so what's great is as you learn more and get involved then you'll become a real part of the team!

**TALK ME THROUGH A RECENT TYPICAL DAY, IF THERE IS ONE!**

A typical day is designing prints, printing fabric, experimenting with new techniques, and ordering in stock. We are all quite casual, as a lot of the time you're running around printing and experimenting. There are a few fancy events we get glammed up for though, like the Fashion Awards, where Richard won the Emerging Womenswear category in 2018 – he booked us all Glamsquad appointments, where hair and make-up artists come to your home to help you get ready!

**YOU MUST WORK VERY LONG HOURS?**

Sometimes. In the run-up to Fashion Week it can be very late, there is always a lot to do and think about before a show so you need to put the work in to get a good result. Otherwise it's normal working hours.

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING INVOLVED IN LONDON FASHION WEEK FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

My first time was for Richard Quinn AW18, which was when the Queen gave Richard the Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design, so all very snazzy! Fashion Week is always crazy, but you learn loads and really get stuck in. It's definitely an experience!



**IN MAY 2018, AMAL CLOONEY WORE ONE OF RICHARD'S DESIGNS. DID SHE CONTACT THE STUDIO HERSELF?**

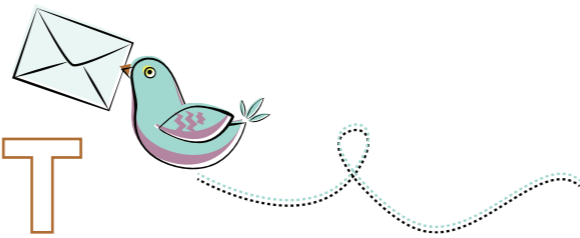
She basically contacted Richard directly, then came to the studio for the fittings – it was a completely bespoke outfit. She was the host of the famous Met Gala in New York, so was photographed a lot. The press coverage was amazing!

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON JUST STARTING OUT ON THEIR CAREER?**

I would say enjoy it, get stuck in, and don't get anxious because work should be fun! Definitely network, but don't put too much pressure on yourself as you'll get there, it can take a bit of time. I believe that if you work hard and put effort in then fate will work it out and you'll be where you want to be. You may have to do some internships you don't love, but it's all a worthwhile learning experience! ■



# PIGEON POST



Catch up with the latest news and views from RHS alumni from around the world.

## RHS DOWN UNDER

A few years ago Alumni Officer Monty Callow organised an 'RHS Down Under' get-together dinner in Brisbane – and everyone agreed it would be a great idea for the group to keep in touch more regularly.

Those that attended the dinner included Alistair Cobbold, David Cutler, Rob Boniwell, Chris Penniford, Nick Hancock, Anson Goater, Paul Gomm, Raymond Howard, Damon Mahy, Matthew Goudge, Don Bullen, Colin Moorcraft, Martin Blogg, Vic Balhatchet (deceased), Richard Groves from Bromley in Kent, and Anthony Brewster.

If anyone wants to contact any of these Old Boys, please send Ricky Waters (Raleigh, 1951) an email and he will try to reunite old friends. His email address is [randb.waters@bigpond.com](mailto:randb.waters@bigpond.com).



## NAMSOS 80 YEARS ON

We're always fascinated to hear of alumni who are researching the histories of other former pupils, so Graham Swift's (Anson, 1953) email piqued our interest – he had this to say:

"In April 1940 Germany attacked Norway to protect the iron ore supply. Britain came to the aid of Norway, and lost the short land battle. However, they had successes at sea. On 20th April the port town of Namsos was attacked by aircraft and my father's ship was sunk, he survived and told me about his ordeal.

"In 2000 a memorial was erected in Namsos to the ships lost, and in 2003 I visited the town to take part in the remembrance ceremonies. The ceremonies are held annually and ships' bells from sunken vessels are rung during the events. My father's ship's bell was never found; in 2006 I donated a bronze replica and in 2012 constructed a hanger. The bell now hangs in Namsos town hall and is used in the ceremonies.

"Next year is the 80th anniversary of the Namsos Campaign and I will return to the area. During this visit I will identify the names of ex-RHS men known to have lost their lives. I know nine died in the HMS Glorious incident alone, and as 20 major naval ships were sunk or damaged, then others must have too if we (fairly) assume 1-2 % of a ship's complement could be former pupils of RHS. I am attempting to create a database, adding names to be honoured during the 2020 ceremonies."

If anyone knows of a former pupil who lost their life in this Norwegian campaign, please send an e-mail to [ogdenroads@usa.net](mailto:ogdenroads@usa.net).

## A RALEIGH BOY RECALLS

Chris Ingram (Raleigh, 1956), known as Simon at school, remembers those monastic, spartan days at Raleigh in the '40s' and '50s with his kindly housemaster, Doug 'Baldy' Brown. "Having failed the 11+ exam, RHS gave this late developer the chance to enter the University of Edinburgh," he tells us. He became a dentist in the Shetland Isles then in the '70s he hitch-hiked across the Atlantic, North America and the Pacific, before settling in New Zealand with Canadian Jo Ann, where they raised two fine boys.

"RHS was good for me. Rugby and cross country on its windswept plains, and sailing and rowing on the Stour, fostered my love of the outdoors. Singing, music and Mr Bartlett's organ playing, English and French (with Seacombe and Foster) added some culture to the emerging young man."

In his school-days his nickname was 'Bugs', just the same as his two brothers, Tim (Raleigh, 1952, who now lives in Wales) and Rob (Raleigh, 1966, a retired geologist who lives in Johannesburg, South Africa). He also says that he is keen to catch up with friends from his time at RHS, and adds

"I love returning to the Reunion weekends to experience the exceptional school it has become!"



## RHS IN FILM

Graham Holmes (Anson, 1957) got in touch to tell us he was at RHS from 1953 until 1957, when he joined the Royal Navy. He remembers, during the Saturday film, a reel about RHS being shown, which had been made soon after the School's move to Holbrook. He also recalls, in around 1954, another film being made as a BBC documentary, with McDonald Hopley – actor, writer, and post-war BBC announcer – as the presenter. Does anyone else remember these films?

## STATESIDE VIA ST ANDREWS

Upon leaving RHS, David Ellis (Cornwallis, 1960) tells us he attended the University of St Andrews on a BP scholarship, where he met his wife. He completed his studies with a PhD in Biophysics.

He joined ICFC (now 3i), before becoming Managing Director of Blackwell's in Oxford, and then CFO and later CEO of Software Sciences. The company was successfully sold to BOC; David and the family then moved to the US – for just two years – in 1979. They loved it, so they stayed! He became a director of Oxford Instruments and helped build what the world now knows as MRI scanners. David stepped down in 1991, and built a private equity business in the US with National Westminster Bank and Mercury Asset Management as his partners.

In recent years he has been investing as an Angel, and is now trying to retire and get the younger members of the firm to take the business forward. He's not doing so well at that!



## POSTCARD FROM PORTUGAL

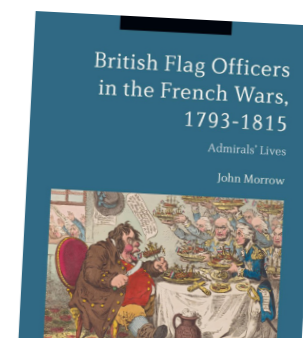
Ronald Goddard (Cornwallis, 1967) writes to tell us that after school he joined the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and spent 35 years in the Royal Navy as a seaman officer, helicopter pilot and instructor. During his time in the Navy he commanded HMS Penelope and 815 Naval Air Squadron, and was awarded the Air Force Cross after the Falklands War. He was appointed to the Ministry of Defence, and finished his career as Defence Attaché in Lisbon. Ronald retired from the Royal Navy in 2001 and now lives in Lisbon with his Portuguese wife. During his retirement he ran the Portugal Branch of the Royal British Legion, was a representative of the World Ship Trust, and was also a member of other charitable organisations. He plays regular golf, and works as a consultant for an Irish boat building company.



## HISTORY ON THE HIGH SEAS

John Morrow (Collingwood, 1969) tells us that he moved to New Zealand in 1972, and aside from a period of postgraduate study in Canada has lived there ever since. He is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Auckland, but is expecting to retire in the next year or so.

John's academic research has focused on the history of 19th century political thought, but a few years ago he embarked on a rather different project on British Admirals in the French Wars. He was interested in their professional lives, ambitions and the interactions which affected them all, rather than the great fleet actions in which a few of the men were occasionally involved. During the course of this hugely enjoyable project, John read manuscript material in museums and archives in England and Scotland, including papers relating to the careers of flag officers memorialised in RHS house names: Collingwood, Cornwallis, Hood, Howe, Nelson and St Vincent. This work gave rise to a book published in London by Bloomsbury Academic in 2018: *British Flag Officers in the French Wars, 1793-1815: Admirals' Lives*.



## A SNAPSHOT FROM JOHN THOMPSON

John Thompson (Nelson, 1965) tells us he is still working at his busy photographic studio in Cambridge (Jet Photographic) with his wife, specialising in school and university work; he keeps in touch with RHS by photographing the choir, band and guard annually. They have three grown-up children: a daughter who is a landscape architect, a son who works in IT in the City, and their youngest son, who is now at Aberystwyth University and a keen Iron Man competitor. As an ex-chorister, John is very surprised to see only two male trebles in the choir and the rest are girls. His brother Peter (Nelson, 1963) spends most of his time living between Cape Town and Munich, while Robert (Nelson, 1964) has handed his luxury French ski chalet, Chalet Brio in Samoëns, over to his son, and is now living in Oundle.

## A LIFE-LONG LEARNER

"I'm not 64½, I'm 22 with over four decades of experience," says Robert Howe (Anson, 1971). He has been a research chemist, secondary school teacher, bank officer, working chemist in a factory (with Chartered Chemist status), software developer, and managed a virtual team scattered around the globe. He has been a life-long learner: last year Robert completed a series of courses about IT Service Management.



Failure has been a constant companion too, he tells us; it means he has striven for 'stretch goals' rather than being complacent. It's also made him more resilient to the knocks that inevitably came along. Robert recalls that he was in the school cross country team, but never came in the first six over the line. He also got a lower second bachelor's degree, but still got postgraduate funding. He has three adult children whom he is very proud of, all with better grade first degrees than his – but he jokes that he can still tease them that his Master's degree out-trumps theirs!

"I've also had the last laugh at the teacher who told my parents 'Robert is too slow to pass a stationary bus,'" he tells us. "I think I've done okay."

## FULL STEAM AHEAD

Philip Trinder (Nelson, 1975) left RHS in 1975 to study organic chemistry, with the support of his employer Steetley Minerals, before moving to Steetley Chemicals, where he became a chemical sales engineer.

He worked in the water treatment industry for Steetley Chemicals, and then Water Management Ltd, before setting up his own water treatment company, Towerite. For a few years he looked after the steam boilers at RHS, before selling his company in 1999. He was headhunted to be Managing Director of a test kit manufacturer in Wrexham, before leaving in late 2006 to set up his own test kit company called DTK Water, in Northampton.

On selling the business in 2015, Philip and his wife appeared on *A Place in the Sun*, purchasing a penthouse apartment in Cala D'Or. He now works part-time as a consultant in Legionella control and water treatment. When in Mallorca he spends time with friends touring, boating, eating and drinking. Philip is married to Ruth, and they have two children, Charlotte and Jamie.



## LOOKING BACK

Nick Petrie (Anson, 1977) got in touch to tell us about the consequences of attending RHS for five years. "It taught me to be very independent, a leader, confident, sarcastic, quick-witted, loyal, and honest," he says. "I am a risk taker, but I respect authority, traditions and women. I am excellent at timekeeping, and have a love of good food and drink. I am comfortable in my own company and in difficult situations, as nothing is worse than those first weeks at RHS, having come from junior school in Singapore!"

He carries on to say he understood, years later, that Mr Rodway – his Anson Housemaster – was a key figure in his upbringing, and helped Nick to form his personality, through a daily battle with Mr Rodway's authority. After coming to the realisation that having 700 boys together is not healthy for a rounded mind, Nick tells us that he would have loved to have been at RHS as a mixed school. "Looking back it was an honour to be at RHS, but I do wonder what life would have been like if I had gone to a 'normal' school as I did lack emotion for many years."

Upon leaving school, Nick was accepted for an electrical apprenticeship at Portsmouth Dockyard, then began working for Marconi Space Systems. He tells us he was lucky enough to work for Vodafone right at the beginning, staying there for 10 years, and that he has been a mobile telecoms and IT consultant for the past 20 years, working all around the world.



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Simon Porter (Hawke, 1979) tells us he left RHS in June 1979. "I was hurriedly ejected just two weeks prior to sitting my O Levels," he confides.

"Now, 40 years later, I'm a postgraduate-qualified Chartered Engineer, with a wife of 20 years and two children. My daughter will be graduating from the University of Bristol this year with a BA Hons in Russian, and my son will be starting his A Level studies in September." Simon tells us he has little contact with anyone from RHS, but did come across a couple on Facebook and LinkedIn, however, not being a Millennial he says he's not that tuned in to social media!

Simon did, however, have the complete surprise and pleasure to find himself sitting at the next desk from Mark Worthington from the same entry year (1974) and House (Hawke), whilst at a client's offices in 2016. Mark had been on holiday when Simon arrived, but had noted a familiar name on the next-door PC and thought "it can't possibly be him!" Simon continues: "I can't remember exactly what I said, but the comment or question was RHS related. It might have been 'were you a New Jack in 1974?' This unlocked a conversational floodgate!"



## FROM HOLBROOK TO 'HOLBROOK ADVISORY'

Karl Railton-Woodcock (St Vincent, 1973) was in St Vincent when it was run by "the inestimably excellent Mr Brian Hawkins." He was lucky enough to go to Cambridge to study science, where, as he tells us, he quickly discovered he didn't know a lot about a lot of things!



After graduating, Karl wanted to travel. After declining an offer from the British Antarctic Survey, he went to the copper mines of Zambia. He then moved to a job in the oil refining industry in South Africa – it was there, he explains, that he worked out he was better off behind a desk than wandering aimlessly around the planet, developed a knack for strategic planning – and has done it ever since.

Karl returned to London in 1984 to work in brewing and hospitality, before later selling his business and joining Foster's Head Office in Melbourne. He's now been in Australia for more than 20 years, in what he tells us is "the best city on the planet!" He left corporate life three years ago, but still dabbles in mergers and acquisitions, and advisory work as 'Holbrook Advisory'. Karl tells us that he misses the country pubs and some old friends... but not the climate!

## THE BEST OF TIMES

David March (Hood, 1975) writes to share his memories of RHS with us: "As alumni, we are the best of friends who shared the very best of times. In our full and hopefully distinguished careers we become part of many groups, and I recall with great affection my experiences with the Royal Navy and subsequently in industry. As I reflect, however, on those halcyon days, none can hold a candle to my school days at the Royal Hospital School.

"Being honest now, it was all about sport! Which meant tennis with Wally Curtis leading us to Wimbledon, ferocious inter-house football and 1st XV rugby that adopted a pseudo-professional status. All sorts of other mischief ensued, from hitting a tennis ball on the chapel roof to the odd nip of rum during the ever dreary inter-house cross country.

"It was quite a novelty to get to university in those days – but I only really recall those long debates during hours of politics and economics. Time now to give back whatever we can."



## IN THE PICTURE

George Franks (Cornwallis, 1981) writes to say: "It seems like only yesterday that I was leaving RHS for the last time in the summer of 1981, I had the world at my feet, and of course like all of us, knew it all!" George is now semi-retired and concentrating all his efforts on his first love, photography. He lives and works in Manchester and shoots sports photography – cricket, Premiership football, and rugby for the back pages of newspapers and for websites.

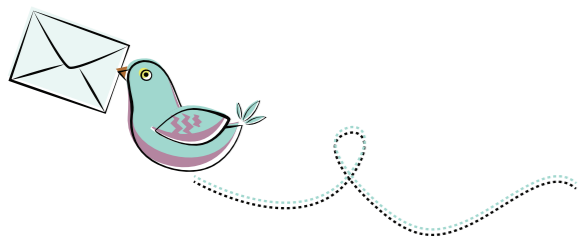
George still returns to RHS as often as he can, and is the official photographer for the November reunion, shooting the rugby, hockey and Remembrance Day Divisions. "It was great to see so many last November," he says. "But most of all it's great to rekindle friendships from RHS, even if it's been 38 years since you last saw each other."



## SWING IN HIS STEP

Andrew Robinson (Collingwood, 1979) got in touch to tell us that he currently works for Perkins, part of the Caterpillar Group based in Peterborough, but that in his spare time he is one half (with wife Sandra) of The Blitz Dancers, performing in 1930s/'40s style, entertaining at many dances and outdoor events over the summer months. You can find out more at [www.theblitzdancers.com](http://www.theblitzdancers.com).





## LIFE THROUGH A LENS

Alice Hawkins (Cornwallis, 1997) has just published her first book *Alice's Adventures*, which is a collection of the extraordinary people – including a number of well-known celebrities – that she has photographed all over the world. Her book includes some of her earliest fashion portraits, which she took on location at RHS in 2005. “The pictures were for one of my first big editorials, commissioned by *POP* magazine,” she explains. “Garry Ravenhall, Head of Art at the time, who taught me art and photography, supportively allowed me to visit.”

“I truly flourished during my time as one of Garry’s students,” she continues. “One discipline he instilled was to always do sketchbook work – samples from these are also included in my book!” *Alice's Adventures* is published by Thames and Hudson, and available on Amazon.co.uk.



## “RHS GAVE ME CONFIDENCE”

Lisa Strong (Howe, 1998) writes to tell us she has been a jazz singer in a vintage three-piece band for 12 years, and that she has just started a new venture with pianist and friend Graham. They now perform locally for corporate events and weddings, at restaurants and at other venues.



“I have a lot to thank RHS for, although I hadn’t always realised it,” Lisa says. “RHS gave me the confidence to be who I am today. I am able to stand up and sing my heart out like I used to in the choir, and now I get paid for it – which is a dream!”

Lisa is also employed as Lead Occupational Therapist for Sport for Confidence in Clacton-on-Sea, working to make sporting activities inclusive for all – and she loves her job. Lisa has four children with her ever-supportive husband, Tristan, and they have been together almost 20 years.

For more information on The Lisa Graham Duo, visit their website [www.thelisagrahamduo.com](http://www.thelisagrahamduo.com) or search for them on Facebook.

## FLYING HIGH

Elliott Chadwick (Ehigiator) (Raleigh, 2016) got in touch to tell us about his career. He explains that in his final year at RHS he took a keen interest in the RAF Section of the CCF.

Upon leaving, he was already sure that he wanted to become a commercial airline pilot. Elliott believes that the foundations he was taught at school helped him gain a place on the sponsored Generation EasyJet Pilot Training Programme – which is extremely competitive, with limited spaces available.

Elliott has now passed all 14 ATPL theory examinations, and has completed the intense Foundation Flight Training. Elliott now moves onto the Airbus A320 simulators, before starting a career as a First Officer with the airline. He will be based at London Gatwick, carrying passengers all over Europe and North Africa. “I owe thanks to David Simmons at RHS for his commitment, constant support and the flying opportunities he always offered to me, as that is where my flying addiction really evolved from,” Elliott says.



# 100 Years of Excellence

**Old Boy Basil Trott will turn 100 at the end of this year; he attended Greenwich and Holbrook from 1931 until 1935. His son, Peter, writes about Basil's life.**

**BASIL TROTT WAS BORN ON 22 DECEMBER 1919 IN SHEFFIELD, AS THE FOURTH SON OF MINNIE AND THOMAS TROTT. HE AND ALL HIS OLDER BROTHERS SERVED IN THE ROYAL NAVY BEFORE AND DURING WWII, AND HE IS THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF THAT FAMILY.**

Basil's father served in the Royal Marine Artillery, and after many years of service he became an inspector for the NSPCC – this resulted in the family moving several times during Basil's early life, to Greenwich, South London, Winchester and later to Portsmouth.

Basil was sent to the Royal Hospital School, which all three of his older brothers attended, so that he would have a stable upbringing whilst his parents continued to move with his father's work. Basil was at the school, in 7 Company where his number was 743, when it transferred from Greenwich to Holbrook. He was in Blake House.

He later joined the Royal Navy and spent time training at HMS St Vincent in Gosport – he has told us that he enjoyed being ‘Button Boy’ at the top of the mast. He saw service on HMS Exeter in 1937-39. During his two and a half years on the South America Patrol, Basil was part of the team sent ashore to assist in Concepción, Chile, after a major earthquake. In 2017, he was belatedly presented with a medal by the Chilean Ambassador for his part in that work.

He also represented the ship at rifle shooting, and won the 46th Military Rifle Meeting in Bermuda in 1938. His service on HMS Exeter culminated in the ship's involvement in the Battle of the River Plate in December of 1939. During the battle he was a gun-layer in ‘Y’ turret in the aft end of the ship, and manned the last gun to be fired by Exeter in the battle. Her forward turrets ‘A’ and ‘B’ were destroyed. Basil appeared in a BBC documentary about the battle and made a recording of his memories for the Imperial War Museum.

Basil is a member of the Battle of the River Plate Association and has visited the town of Ajax in Ontario, Canada, on several occasions. The town has made a conscious decision to name the majority of its streets after the men who served in the three ships involved in the battle; Ajax, Achilles and Exeter, and there is a road named after Basil in the town: Trott Lane.



Circa 1940  
Basil as a Leading Hand

2017  
Receiving a medal  
from the Chilean  
Ambassador



Basil also served on several other ships during WWII, including HMS Kenya and HMS Wallace. The latter ship was involved in convoys to Russia in the early days of the attempt to resupply that nation. If asked, he will also admit to having been to Malta during the war but only very briefly, as having delivered a convoy there, the escorting warships left rapidly to avoid aerial attacks.

His last seagoing posting as a Lieutenant was as the Gunnery Officer aboard HMS Whitby for her first commission in, I think, 1953. He continued to serve until 1956, and for a time was the Parade Training Officer at the then Gunnery School at HMS Excellent on Whale Island in Portsmouth.

Basil met and married Violet Duncan in Plymouth in 1943 and produced their only son – me – in May 1948.

After the war, Basil spent a few years as an office equipment salesman for Roneo Ltd, and had a short spell in Johnson & Johnson's factory in Portsmouth. This led him to take up a second career as a Local Government Officer, initially in Gosport and then in Portsmouth, where he remained until his retirement.

Aged 68, Basil decided to sell up and move out of the country to start a new life with Violet in Torrevieja, Spain. He was a member of the Freemasons and helped to found the Old Tower Lodge in Torrevieja.

Unfortunately, Violet died in May 1989, having not had a full year in their new home. Basil remained in Spain for a further 12 years, and met his present wife Sadie there, marrying her in November 1994. After moving back to the UK, they both now live in the Cherry Hinton suburb of Cambridge. ■

*If you have some news you'd like to share, please email [lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org)*



**KEITH WILLIAM WRIGHT**  
(*Hawke, 1965*)  
**DECEMBER 2018**

Keith was born on 21 July 1951, in Portsmouth. He was first educated at Paulsgrove Junior Boys School and then attended RHS from 1963 to 1965. When he left school Keith joined the Merchant Navy, first on the Union Castle Line, doing the South African run, and then working for Cunard where he crewed on the Queen Mary for her final Atlantic crossing. After the Merchant Navy he worked as a painting sub-contractor, retiring through ill health in 2008.

He was also an ardent sea fisherman, a pastime which he carried on until he suffered a stroke, which stopped his infrequent but enjoyable trips.

Keith leaves a widow, stepdaughter, son and daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.



**DR CHRISTOPHER CHARLES GAINE**  
(*Nelson, 1968*)  
**JANUARY 2018**

Dr Christopher Charles Gaine was a Professor of Applied Social Policy at the University of Chichester. During an academic career devoted to fighting for race equality within education and social policy, Chris engaged with a wide range of people – he could be found anywhere from attending a briefing at Downing Street with Prime Minister Tony Blair to interviewing migrant workers in West Sussex.

Chris was not a professor who merely professed about race equality, he worked with commitment, courage and drive to ensure he made a difference through his teaching and research. His three books *No Problem Here* (Hutchinson Education, 1987), *Still No Problem Here* (Trentham Books, 1995) and *We're All White Thanks* (Trentham Books, 2005) are a lasting legacy of his contribution to the fight against racial injustice in education.

Chris gained funding from Comic Relief and devised the Britkid website, later followed by a sibling site Eurokid. Chris pioneered the idea and informed the design of the websites to provide engaging materials for teachers to understand race and racism, but most importantly the sites helped youngsters understand racism and how to live in a multicultural society. Later, he also set up an anti-bullying website, Coastkid.

“His wisdom and teaching opened my eyes and encouraged me to see the world in a way I had not been able to see it before,” said one of his students. “He was an inspiring teacher allowing us, his students, to feel empowered and that we could make a positive difference.”



**GARFIELD WILFRED CORLETTE-JUNIOR**  
(*Hawke, 1987*)  
**JANUARY 2018**

Garfield (Gary) was born on 27 September 1970 in Hackney, and grew up in Dagenham. He joined RHS in 1981. On leaving the School he was based in Plymouth, and served in the Royal Navy from 1988 – 2006. His distinguished Navy career was spent serving on ships including HMS Coventry, Chatham, Campbeltown and Cornwall, until he was medically discharged in 2006. He went on to work as an electrical contractor until his stroke in 2014, when he started to benefit from support from the charity Help For Heroes.

Gary died suddenly on 14 January 2018. Gary, who lived with his fiancée, Fiona, in Peverell, is remembered as a happy-go-lucky man who lit up a room. He was popular among his friends, to the point where he served as best man at 28 weddings! Many friends travelled from across the world to attend his military funeral at HMS Drake. He also leaves behind one daughter, Nicole, aged 25.

Gary, known as Junior to his ‘naval family’, had a passion for enjoying himself and a love of rugby, making an annual pilgrimage to the Hong Kong sevens.

If you wish to donate to Help For Heroes in Gary’s memory, you can visit his Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/garycorlette-junior](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/garycorlette-junior)

# IN TRIBUTE

The Royal Hospital School is proud to honour the lives of alumni, former staff and friends of the School. It is with great sadness that we announce the recent deaths of those below:

**JACK ATKINSON** (*Hood, 1950*) August 2018

**SURGEON COMMODORE NICOLAS BALDOCK CBE** (*Nelson, 1963*) September 2018

**BRUCE HENRY FREDERICK BARTER** (*Anson, 1956*) August 2018

**ANTHONY WILLIAM BELFORD** (*Blake, 1957*) January 2018

**GEOFFREY FRANK BELL** (*Hood, 1987*) April 2018

**WILLIAM DEREK BELL** (*Howe, 1943*) July 2018

**ANTHONY MARTIN GILPIN BEW** (*Cornwallis, 1976*) January 2018

**SIMON PAUL BOWDEN** (*St Vincent, 1977*) June 2018

**STANLEY BUTTIMER** (*Hawke, 1944*) April 2019

**PHILIP ROBIN CHISHOLM** (*Hood, 1970*) April 2018

**PROFESSOR FREDERICK BERNARD DE NEUMANN** (*Nelson, 1960*) April 2018

**DOUGLAS IAN DEUCHAR** (*Hood, 1967*) February 2018

**JAMES (JIM) FREEMAN** (*Blake, 1939*) September 2018

**ROBERT (BOB) GOOD** (*staff, 1977 - 2001*) August 2018

**JACK REGINALD LARTER** (*Nelson, 1958*) March 2018

**DR JOHN ANDREW MCMORDIE** (*Nelson, 1961*) June 2018

**DONALD EDWARD PEACOCK** (*Cornwallis, 1966*) April 2019

**CHRISTOPHER JAMES POPE** (*Anson, 1970*) January 2019

**CHRISTOPHER WALTER PURKISS** (*Blake, 1940*) February 2018

**JOHN ALEXANDER ROBERTS** (*Anson, 1960*) April 2019

**DEREK W VINGOE** (*staff, 1962 - 1995*) September 2018

**RODNEY ERROL WARD** (*Hawke, 1958*) May 2019

**ALEXANDER HENRY BERT WESTON** (*Blake, 1939*) September 2018

# Behind the scenes: Our Bonnie Chap

**NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME FOR ALAN BONWICK, RHS HANDYMAN AND GROUNDSMAN OF 25 YEARS, AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. HERE, ALAN – KNOWN AS BONNIE – TELLS LUCY PEMBROKE ABOUT HIS DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES.**

Behind the scenes there is an army of people keeping the School going. Gardeners to electricians, laundry workers to delivery drivers. For many years the estate staff were affectionately called 'worgies' by the pupils, though the department has had a number of different official names since those days; Property Services, Estates and now Operations. Lucy took time out with one of the most colourful characters over a cup of tea.

This year Bonnie celebrates 25 years at RHS. He is always seen around campus with a cheeky smile, putting his hand to anything that needs fixing.

When Bonnie was 15 his Deputy Headmaster, who doubled up as the careers officer, called him into his office and told him that Shrubland Hall (just north of Ipswich) was looking for a trainee gardener. Back then, the property was a private health clinic, used by the rich and famous looking for a bit of tranquillity away from the bustle of London. Bonnie spent eight years at Shrubland Hall, but did he see anyone famous? "There were loads of actors, actresses and producers who went there," he confides. "From actor Harry Andrews (1911-1989) who appeared in over 80 films, to the cast of Crossroads."

After Shrubland Hall, Bonnie worked at nearby Helmingham Hall, a stunning Tudor house and gardens, owned by the Tollemache family.



As well as growing vegetables, I used to grow the tobacco for Michael Kirk's pipe!

He spent another eight years there before moving to Erwarton Hall, a privately owned home near Shotley.

In 1986 Bonnie took a different path, and moved to garage firm Henleys as a driver and odd-job man. Joining RHS in 1994, as Undergardener to Peter Page (who was Headmaster's Gardener for over 50 years), Bonnie's job was to grow the vegetables for the Headmaster's house – no vegetables ever made it to the school kitchen though! Peter Page retired a few years later, so Bonnie replaced him.

Bonnie has worked for five Headmasters: Michael Kirk, Nick Ward, Howard Blackett, James Lockwood and Simon Lockyer.

A few years into Nick Ward's tenure it was agreed that the services of a Headmaster's Gardener were no longer needed, so Bonnie started a new job as Handyman and Stoker. The latter was probably one of the most important jobs in the school – keeping the boiler stoked with coal. Although this was in fact automated, a stoker was still required to be onsite 24/7. Bonnie did the nightshift three times a week – at 04:00 every morning, the valve had to be released to ensure there was steam to power the cookers, and hot water in the kitchens to start cooking breakfast.

Nowadays, Bonnie is happy to turn his hand to anything that is required: painting, decorating, digging holes, resurfacing paths... but he particularly loves the driving. When asked why he's been at RHS so long, Bonnie is quick to respond. "I adore the place," he says, with a glint in his eye. "I like most of the people including 99% of the kids – they're really chatty, most are better behaved than the old days, but there are always some that are not! And I love the variety of each day – I could be driving or mixing concrete."

I like most of the people including 99% of the kids – they're really chatty, most are better behaved than the old days, but there are always some that are not!

"Also, there's a family connection," he continues. "My uncle was a pupil from 1934-1939. He went to Shotley, then into the Navy, serving in World War II on submarines."

By the time he retires, Bonnie will have seen thousands of RHS pupils go through the school, and many changes to the staff and the day-to-day running of the place. "For example, when I started working at RHS, all teachers were called 'Sir', and the Bursar was called 'Bursar,'" he explains. "When Headmaster Howard Blackett joined the School in 2004, he asked me to call him by his first name. I said this was too difficult as 'Sir' was ingrained!" But though old habits may die hard, it's clear that change isn't unwelcome. "The kids today have more respect for the works staff. The Health & Safety has definitely improved, maybe even tilts the other way slightly," says Bonnie. "Technology has made logging and managing jobs easier, although you can't lose the chit anymore!"

Bonnie's Uncle, John Gilmore (Hawke, 1939) seen below on the left



## LIFE CHANGING LEGACY: BERNARD DE NEUMANN

**ONE OF OUR GREATEST ALUMNI, WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO RHS WAS SIGNIFICANT DURING HIS LIFE, HAS BESTOWED A TREMENDOUS GIFT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

Professor Bernard de Neumann (1943 – 2018) was a former pupil in Nelson House and attended the School on a Lloyds Patriotic Fund Bursary between 1955 and 1960. Bernard, an incredibly affable and modest man, epitomised the School's mission and naval values through the far-reaching impact of his work and the senior positions he held. Bernard was at the forefront of pioneering mathematical and navigational work with the University of Birmingham, Rio Tinto, Marconi, NATO, City University, the NHS, and the University of Essex. He was also a devoted husband to his wife, Jill, who sadly passed away in 2017 and was herself a pioneer, being the first woman to enter Lloyds of London as an underwriter.

The history and accomplishments of the School were a real passion for Bernard, and he was instrumental in preserving our story and heritage for future generations – including the design and implementation of the Jutland Memorial at the front of the School, and the De Neumann Archive in the Heritage Centre. As many of you will know, Bernard helped research and edit our book, which celebrated 300 years of the School.

During the past year the School received an extraordinary gift from Bernard. The gift was in two parts. Firstly, it was the gift of time, when he had very little left, knowing he had terminal cancer. Bernard, with typical farsightedness, sat down with the Headmaster in February 2018 to outline his vision of 'improving navigation' by stimulating mathematics at RHS. Secondly, it was a £550,000 bequest, the De Neumann Fund, that is now changing the lives of gifted and disadvantaged children.

Bernard's words on his decision to make such a bequest strike an emotive chord: "It has given me great pleasure to know that my connection with Gifford Sherman Reade's visionary legacy will live on through the achievements of generations of bright but disadvantaged children, who will be ambitious for their futures and loyal to our founding mission to 'improve navigation' wherever they find themselves."

"We are all immensely proud of Bernard and grateful for the love and interest he had for the School and the comrades he had grown up with," said Headmaster Simon Lockyer. "He will always be remembered and cherished by the School and by those who knew him either personally or professionally. He is one of our greatest alumni, who followed in the footsteps of his own 'RHS hero', Edward Riddle, master of the mathematical school, Royal Naval School, Greenwich in the 1840s.

"Bernard's visionary legacy gift will stimulate mathematics through prizes and provide bursaries for talented mathematicians from low-income families. This incredibly generous gift will inspire our pupils to be ambitious for their futures and our mission in the world."



**A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN BE THE SINGLE MOST VALUABLE DONATION YOU MAKE.**

## MAKE A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

### LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL AND SUPPORT TALENTED CHILDREN FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS

We can never go back to the past (and some of us would not wish to) but we can all choose to live on in our School's future. We can give children from disadvantaged backgrounds a place at what is an outstanding and caring School that celebrates, lives and breathes our proud heritage.

After providing for your family and friends, a legacy gift to RHS in your Will enables you to support areas you care about in the years to come. By letting us know you plan to leave a gift to the School it is possible to thank you for making a difference; as a 'living donor' we will invite you to events and keep you updated on our progress. Gifts left to the Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust and other charities in your Will can also help reduce the inheritance tax burden on your family.

**If you or your solicitor have any questions about leaving a gift to the School in your Will, please call Simon Marsh on 01473 326150, email [smarsh@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:smarsh@royalhospitalschool.org), or fill in our confidential legacy intention form on our website [www.royalhospitalschool.org/support-us](http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/support-us).**



## LOOKING BACK WITH MONTY CALLOW

**EACH ISSUE WE TAKE A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH A MEMBER OF THE RHS ALUMNI COMMUNITY. TODAY IS THE TURN OF FORMER PUPIL, TEACHER AND ALL-ROUND GOOD EGG, MONTY CALLOW.**



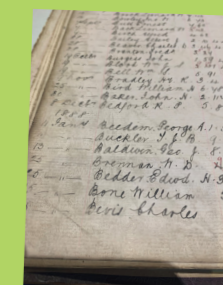
Recently my wife and I had the chance to sail on the Queen Mary 2 to New York – the route was the same as travelled by the Titanic, and I was inspired to research RHS Old Boys who were on the fated ship on 15 April 1912:

One of the 18 deck crew lost that night was Stephen James Davis (RHS 1884 – 1888). After serving in the Royal Navy, it appears that he left to become a boatman for the Coastguard in Sunderland. He then signed on to the Titanic on 6 April 1912, along with his younger brother John. His body was never recovered.

Part of the engineering crew, fireman Harry Oliver (RHS 1882 – 1884), survived by boarding Lifeboat No. 3. How long Harry continued going to sea is unclear; he died in 1944 aged 73.

Frank Henry Gosling (RHS 1898–1901), was a trimmer; he shovelled coal into the chutes, and also moved it around to keep the ship level. He had previously had a colourful career in the Royal Navy, which included several stretches in naval prison, until he was finally discharged in 1907. He signed up for the Titanic on 6 April 1912. Frank, aged 25, died in the sinking, and his body was never recovered.

George Arthur Beedeem (RHS 1888–1890) was a Second Class Bedroom Steward, aged 35. Poorly paid, he would have earned most of his money from tips. He signed on to the Titanic on 4 April 1912.



# BACK IN THE DAY



## NEW MUSIC SCHOOL OPENS

**DR JOHN RUTTER CBE, DESCRIBED AS 'THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND WELL-KNOWN COMPOSER OF CHORAL MUSIC IN RECENT BRITISH HISTORY', OPENED THE NEW £3.6 MILLION READE MUSIC SCHOOL IN DECEMBER.**

The opening was attended by 150 guests including local dignitaries, eminent members of the music world, governors, supporters of the School and the architects, surveyors and building firm involved in the Music School's creation.



During his visit John Rutter said "the new Reade Music School is magnificent; one of the finest music facilities I have ever seen, with a splendid recital hall and an abundance of well-designed practice rooms and classrooms. It will make a perfect home for the flourishing musical activities of this marvellous school."



## DAILY TELEGRAPH, 11 MAY, COURT AND SOCIAL: COURT CIRCULAR

**THE QUEEN THIS AFTERNOON ATTENDED A PARADE TO MARK THE TRICENTENARY OF GREENWICH HOSPITAL AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, GREENWICH, LONDON, AND WAS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF GREENWICH HOSPITAL (DR GORDON MUNGEAM), THE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM TRUSTEES (ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET, THE LORD LEWIN) AND THE MAYOR OF GREENWICH (COUNCILLOR ANNETTE BARRATT).**

Her Majesty inspected a Guard and Band formed by pupils of the Royal Hospital School and presented The Queen's Cutlass to the Guard Commander (Gregory Kaye) and the Princess's Cutlass to Robert Symonds (Deputy Commander). Afterwards The Queen viewed the Tercentenary Exhibition escorted by the Director of the National Maritime Museum (Mr Richard Ormond). The Countess of Airlie, Sir Kenneth Scott and Major James Patrick were also in attendance.



## HEADMASTER'S REPORT, MR NORMAN YORK



"...THE NEW BUILDING IN THE EAST QUADRANGLE HAD BEEN IN USE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1968. ITS SCIENCE ACCOMMODATION MUST COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH THAT OF ANY SCHOOL; BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL INNOVATION OF THE NEW BUILDING CONSISTED OF THE SEMINARS AND COMMON ROOMS INCLUDING THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ROOM, NAMED IN HONOUR OF THE QUEEN MOTHER, WHICH SERVED ALL SIXTH FORM BOYS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR SENIORITY AND ATTAINMENTS..."



RHS ALUMNI & FRIENDS

# LEST WE FORGET

## WEEKEND OF REMEMBRANCE

A weekend to commemorate, to stop, and to be together... join us as we remember our fallen with a weekend full of reflection and events.

SATURDAY 9 AND  
SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2019

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, VISIT [WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS)





 @RHSALUMNIOFFICE

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