GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



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THE CENTENNIAL FUND

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“

I had always wanted to join RHS and follow in my grandfather’s footsteps. My dream came true when I was awarded a Bursary. All that I have achieved through my time at RHS, and all that I will hopefully achieve in the future, began with this foundation for life.

OLIVIA KING
(HOOD, 2020)



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ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

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GIDGE Magazine is sent free to RHS alumni, and is also available for download at www.royalhospitalschool.org/gidge.

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Suffolk Carbon Charter 2019 GOLD

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010693

Cover photo by George R, Year 10



FEATURES



COMING FULL CIRCLE
Captain (Retd) Lucy Knowles-Vollentine RN talks about her Naval career, and last ceremonial responsibility before retiring.



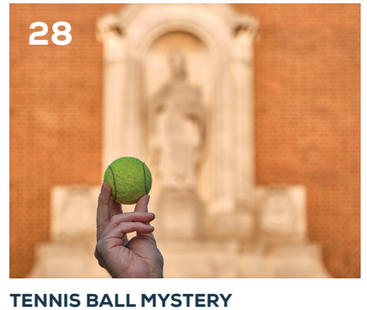
RHS@25
We catch up with Emily Sweeney to find out what she has achieved since leaving RHS.



INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR
We talk to RHS alumnus Tom Peters about how his gap year in Australia led him into the advertising industry.



THE ALLURE OF RHS
Meet two alumni who have recently come back to re-join the RHS community, one as a new parent and one as a teacher.



TENNIS BALL MYSTERY
We turn detective and speak to the ‘tennis ball culprit’, to find out how the ball really got stuck in the cape of St Nicholas.



30 BEHIND THE SCENES
Learn how the School’s strategy enabled 108 teachers to deliver 22,000 lessons, to 750 pupils across 38 countries, during lockdown.

Welcome to the Gidge alumni magazine.

My call for the difficult months and years ahead is to value resilience above robustness. For those of you who remember your Aesop: the reed was able to bend and sway in the wind, but the oak tree was torn up by the roots. Whether nature or nurture, resilience is an RHS marker that sets us apart from the crowd. This quality, and that of service and loyalty, has provided a foundation for life to over 10,000 children. It helps us make a difference to the world. To see so many RHS alumni adapt and rise to the challenge of COVID-19 has been inspiring, and speaks volumes about who we are in the world.

As an alumnus of RHS, and Vice President of the RHSA, what really matters to me is how we continue belonging to the School, meaningfully connecting with, supporting, and inspiring each other. One of the highlights of the year for me was the 'Letters Home' initiative, where pupils wrote to hundreds of older alumni in order to show that they cared and to express their pride in being part of RHS. This, and many other examples of leadership and kindness, has convinced me that the ethos of the School is being carried forward by today's pupils. Let us relax the deep-rooted exactness of how that should happen, and instead focus on how we can adapt and help today's pupils continue the story of the Royal Hospital School.

The best way to make a difference is to be part of it. In these most challenging times, be the reed that can bend, not the immovable oak that gets washed away. You can make a start by turning to the inside front cover of this brilliant edition of the Gidge, and pledging your support.

Now, about that tennis ball...

ANDY REDWOOD (ST VINCENT, 1979)
VICE PRESIDENT, RHS (ALUMNI) ASSOCIATION



'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
Which tells us the way to go.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX
(1850 – 1919)

YEAR IN REVIEW

EXPANDING MINDS, BROADENING HORIZONS

FIRESIDE CHATS ARE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE SIXTH FORM PUPILS TO GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS FROM ALUMNI AND OTHER FRIENDS OF RHS WHO ARE LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS.

In September 2019 we welcomed Jill Barber, Global Head of Institutional at Jupiter Asset Management Limited. Jill spoke to members of Years 12 and 13 about women in business, and the need to address the 'structural deficit' by encouraging more girls to join the finance industry.

Next, we heard from Chris Hook (Collingwood, 1976), Head of Marketing at Warburtons, who joined us in October. Pupils, including a number studying marketing, were intrigued by Chris' recent work with Robert de Niro and how this successful advertising campaign was planned and executed. He advised pupils to look 'below the line' and to examine the culture and values of sectors and organisations they aspire to work in.

Jack Beaman (St Vincent, 2005), CEO of Syft, returned to RHS in November, for a Fireside Chat with the Headmaster and pupils in the new Richards Library. Jack used his own journey (which certainly wasn't the smoothest) as an example, to convince pupils that everyone has got what it takes to succeed and to continually improve – if they really commit to it.



Underneath Jack's story of Syft (the UK's biggest online temping agency) being snapped up by Indeed.com, lies a much more complex jigsaw. The discussion touched upon self-awareness, developing relationships, and knowing when and how to make rational decisions – continued personal development that can be applied to life itself.

In early 2020, the Headmaster and pupils were thrilled to have a 'heart to heart' with Cardiac Physiologist Katherine Collins (Howe, 1999). Katherine, an echocardiographer, scientist and educator, shared the story of her RHS journey — from science nerd, chorister, and Head of Howe to the chance discovery that ultimately led to her successful career in healthcare science (she's now a Fellow of the British Society of Echocardiography, and boasts the Twitter handle the_echo_nerd).



OBE FOR PROFESSOR PHILIP HOWARD

Professor Philip Howard (Cornwallis, 1983) has been awarded an OBE for services to healthcare. Professor Howard is Consultant Pharmacist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and lately National Project Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance, NHS Improvement.

A major part of Professor Howard's work is addressing national and global health priorities related to infection, including the inappropriate prescription and over-prescribing of antibiotics. He is the President of the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.

SEAN ENJOYS GAME SHOW SUCCESS

Following his appearance on *The Chase* in 2018, Sean Cuddihy (Collingwood, 2015) once again appeared on our TV screens in a team of five university football friends dubbed 'The Clean Sheets', on the ITV game show *Tenable*. Sean was called up by his team captain in the second round to name the last 10 non-Oxbridge winners of University Challenge – but he couldn't quite manage enough 'tenable' answers. So as a result his team mates advanced to the next rounds without him, looking relieved they weren't chosen for such a tricky task.

Sean was reinstated back into the game for the final, and was able to contribute to the team answering a complete list for '10 football managers to have won the Premier League', earning themselves £10,000. Sean spent his share of the prize travelling around South America, visiting Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

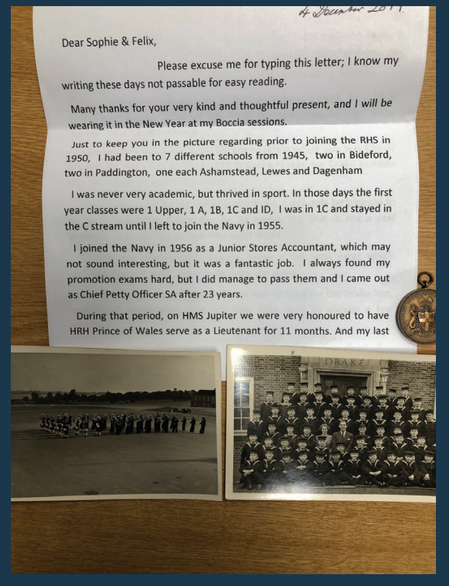


HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR OLD BOYS

THE ALUMNI OFFICE INTRODUCED A NEW INITIATIVE TO LINK THOSE ALUMNI ABOUT TO CELEBRATE THEIR 80TH, 90TH AND 100TH BIRTHDAYS, WITH BIRTHDAY CARDS AND SPECIAL WISHES FROM CURRENT PUPILS IN THEIR FORMER HOUSES.

There has been such positive feedback from the alumni who received their cards and messages. Just one example comes from Geoffrey Hay (Cornwallis, 1956); "It was a great gesture and certainly made my birthday that little bit more special!"

Birthday Wishes has been inspired by some St Vincent pupils' interactions with Gordon McCoombe OBE (St Vincent, 1944) last year, and as part of his 90th birthday. Sadly Gordon has since passed away, but his family told us they were overwhelmed by the difference the connection made to Gordon's quality of life.



Dear Sophie & Felix,

Please excuse me for typing this letter; I know my writing these days not passable for easy reading.

Many thanks for your very kind and thoughtful present, and I will be wearing it in the New Year at my Boccia sessions.

Just to keep you in the picture regarding prior to joining the RHS in 1950, I had been to 7 different schools from 1945, two in Bideford, two in Paddington, one each Ashamstead, Lewes and Dagenham

I was never very academic, but thrived in sport. In those days the first year classes were 1 Upper, 1 A, 1B, 1C and ID, I was in 1C and stayed in the C stream until I left to join the Navy in 1955.

I joined the Navy in 1956 as a Junior Stores Accountant, which may not sound interesting, but it was a fantastic job. I always found my promotion exams hard, but I did manage to pass them and I came out as Chief Petty Officer SA after 23 years.

During that period, on HMS Jupiter we were very honoured to have HRH Prince of Wales serve as a Lieutenant for 11 months. And my last

MADISON TOURS THE US

FORMER PUPIL MADISON CLARIDGE (RALEIGH, 2017) GRADUATED WITH 1ST CLASS HONOURS FROM THE ACADEMY OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IN NOVEMBER 2019. UP UNTIL LOCKDOWN, HE WAS TOURING AMERICA AND THE UK WITH A BAND CALLED SINGLE BY SUNDAY, UNDER THE PERFORMANCE NAME JAMES MADISON. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS WAS HEADLINING AT THE BOSTON CITY 'FIRST NIGHT' NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS, PLAYING TO AN AUDIENCE OF 50,000.



Madison has also been working in the studio with a number of artists, having produced *Same* by Dennie Touré and drumming on *Believe* by The Night Society, both of which have received extensive BBC Introducing radio play. Madison is very happy to offer any advice he can to RHS pupils, current and former. "If there are any students who would like to know more about studying music in further education then feel free to put them in touch! Likewise if there are any alumni interested in working within the music industry then I'm always happy to get chatting!"

THE BUSIEST REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND REUNION ON RECORD?

Remembrance Weekend is always eventful, but this particular weekend was an exceptionally busy one for the Alumni Relations Office. On Friday evening former pupil Martin Patmore (Cornwallis, 1961), a photographer and documentary cameraman, gave a presentation in the Richards Library to all of Year 7, followed by supper with a small group of Year 12 and 13 students taking Film or Photography A Level. Martin, who worked for the BBC for 33 years, encouraged both audiences to 'follow their dreams'.



Saturday started with the annual Old Boys vs Old Boys rugby fixture. It was a hard-fought match - despite the comedy factor of a dinosaur deciding to join the party – and there was one unfortunate casualty, Paul Appleby-Mell (Blake, 1987), who broke his ankle, and had to endure a lengthy stay in hospital.

Open Houses followed in the afternoon, with tea and cake served by pupils in all the Houses. The School vs RHSA hockey match took place for the second year, with a number of pupils from Years 12 and 13 playing against the RHSA team. Some fantastic skills were shown by everyone. Special mention goes to Neil Williams (Drake, 1988) who, despite not playing since school, managed to score three goals for the RHSA side. However, the School was victorious, winning 7:4.

The curry evening in The Shed was again well attended. Richard Cantelo (Collingwood, 1981) presented the awards: Steve Linehan Shield Man of the Match, Sam Cantelo (Collingwood, 2017); the Jez Poolton Spirit of Rugby, Kevin Cooke (Collingwood, 1988); Tony Witham Top Draw Trophy, Paul Appleby-Mell (Blake, 1987) – which was received on the ward in Ipswich Hospital whilst waiting for his broken ankle to be fixed! Hockey Man of the Match, Neil Williams (Drake, 1988); and the Peter Crick Memorial Shield went to the winning hockey team, RHS.

We were blessed with glorious weather for Remembrance Sunday and Divisions, with not a cloud in the sky. Rear Admiral J Pentreath CB OBE, Commander Joint Helicopter Command, took Divisions, and to mark Armistice, an Apache helicopter from Wattisham Army Aircorps flew over the parade ground. The Old Boys and Girls squad did an exceptional job of showing the pupils 'how it was done'. Clearly the skill of marching never leaves you. Thanks to Claire Waugh (Blake/Cornwallis, 1999) and Chris Saunby (Anson, 1986) for carrying the Queen's Banner.



George Franks

At pre-lunch drinks, former staff member Maggie Good drew a raffle which was in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity and The Centennial (Bursary) Fund, and which raised £600. The winner was Sub Lt Kieran Player, partner of Shannon Dagger (Raleigh, 2015). A delicious Sunday lunch followed in the Dining Hall before everyone headed home.

Some VVIPs also attended the weekend. Pictured left to right are Lt Cdr (Retd) Nigel Griffiths QGM, Head of Ceremonial; Simon Lockyer, Headmaster; Stanley (Luke) Lukehurst, aged 93 (Nelson, 1941); William Pearson, a whipper snapper at 87 (Drake, 1947); and Ray Poingdestre, aged 95 (Drake, 1939). They all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with a tour of the School, the Houses and the Heritage Centre. Many thanks to Aimee Frankham (Cornwallis, 1995) and her daughter, Olivia Frankham (Anson, 2019), for looking after Ray, Luke and William, and hosting them for lunch.



PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING GROWS IN POPULARITY

Our Professional Networking Programme has continued to flourish. The autumn London event was sponsored by the RHS (Alumni) Association and held at Baring Asset Management by kind invitation of Mrs Nicola Robertson, Head of Human Resources UK and Europe at Barings, a parent at RHS.

The diversity of sectors represented is a real insight into the varied opportunities in the world of work for our alumni, and included industries such as security, crisis and resilience, media, healthcare, technology, commercial property, music and government, just to name a few. For the first time the under 25s outnumbered the over 25s by 2:1, which really shows the value of the programme offering.



Special thanks go to our speakers, Kevin Briscoe (Raleigh, 1983), who spoke about his career in journalism before he started his own marketing and PR business. Richard Corner (Hawke, 1994) shared his story of starting crab meat brand Seafood and Eat It with his brother, with the help of a grant from The Prince's Trust, of which he is now a mentor. Richard Stokes (St Vincent, 2012) gave us an insight into what it's like going straight into the Civil Service from school. He is now Head of UK Automotive Trade Policy with a team of 14 beneath him. Parent Russell Sheldon spoke about his career journey, from starting out at PWC, to becoming Chief Operations & Technology Officer working in digital enablement and operational transformation. The talks concluded with our host Nicola Robertson explaining the wide variety of career opportunities at Barings, in areas such as global investment and technology, finance and accounting, administration and office management.

"It was a great event and something I will definitely be attending again in the future... I am extremely excited about the next steps and what the future may hold!"
Ed Fletcher (St Vincent, 2017)



CLASS OF 2018 MEETS AGAIN!

Ending a great year of alumni engagement, Lucy Pembroke, RHS Alumni Relations Manager, welcomed back just over 60 of our 2018 leavers. Some are working, some travelling, and many back from university - but all were destined for the Curve Bar, Ipswich, on 19 December. In recent years this recent leavers meet-up has become a popular annual event - we're hoping that we can resume the tradition in 2021.



OLIVER MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN NAGORNO KARABAKH

Oliver Gerard-Pearse (Collingwood, 2013) is a Survey Manager for the HALO Trust, overseeing a countrywide survey in the disputed Nagorno Karabakh Republic. His role is to go into villages, collect information, and map out new minefields which need to be cleared.

On 6 October 2019 Oliver competed in the Ultra X Wadi Rum Ultra marathon in Jordan, running 250km over five days across the Wadi Rum desert. He raised an impressive £5,385 for the Halo Trust, with every penny being matched by an anonymous donor to double his fundraising total to £10,770!

NETWORKING NORTH OF THE BORDER

RHS was delighted to welcome a small but exclusive group of alumni to the aptly named Nelson Room at Edinburgh University, for the last regional networking event that was able to take place before the COVID-19 lockdown. It was the second year Lucy Pembroke had headed north to meet alumni in Scotland.

Pictured, left to right, are Freddie Fergusson (Collingwood, 2012); Mark Drummy (Anson, 1988); James Kerr (Anson, 2003); Mark Downie (Drake, 1997); Ciara Harris (Howe, 2012); Claire Cuddihy (Hood, 2013); Annalise Matthews (Howe, 2012); Jamie Fosker (Raleigh, 2017); Zac Puckey (Drake, 2018); and Lewis Browning (Drake, 2018).

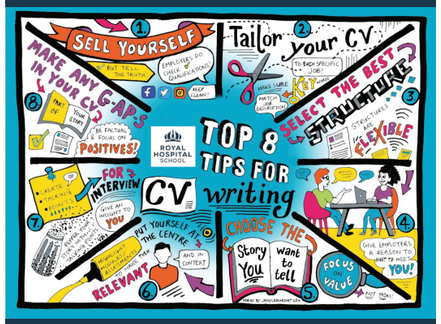
Despite a small generational gap, the room was buzzing, with everyone swapping business cards and comparing the School 'then and now'. There was lots of chatter reminiscing about teachers who had taught and inspired so many generations of RHS pupils.



SUPPORTING YOUNG ALUMNI

With the cancellation of the Professional Networking events due to COVID-19, the Alumni Office looked at how it could specifically help young RHS alumni on their first steps into further education, or those looking to enter the workplace for the first time.

In August we formally launched the RHS University Ambassadors Network, a new initiative to help support young alumni as they transition from school to university – and we recruited 26 alumni currently studying at university. The aim going forward is to extend the network, recruiting RHS alumni volunteers in other institutions around the world.



We've also focused on providing career-related resources and advice, including our top eight tips for CV writing and advice on creating the best possible LinkedIn profile, which can be found on the news section of the School's website. Of course, these articles can be used by younger and older generations alike - you never stop learning!

ALUMNI OFFICE SHORTLISTED FOR TES AWARD

The Alumni Office staff were delighted to be shortlisted for this year's TES Independent School Awards 2020 'Alumni Engagement Programme of the Year'. We were listed alongside the best of the UK's independent schools' alumni programmes. In the end we narrowly lost out to Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. Yes, the word 'Royal'... it got us excited too, on the night.
Louise Bennett, TES Judge, said: "The range of different ways of engaging with alumni, from letter-writing through to social media, shows a clearly thought-through strategy to engage across the generations of alumni from RHS. An incredibly comprehensive alumni engagement campaign, demonstrating direct impact on alumni engagement."

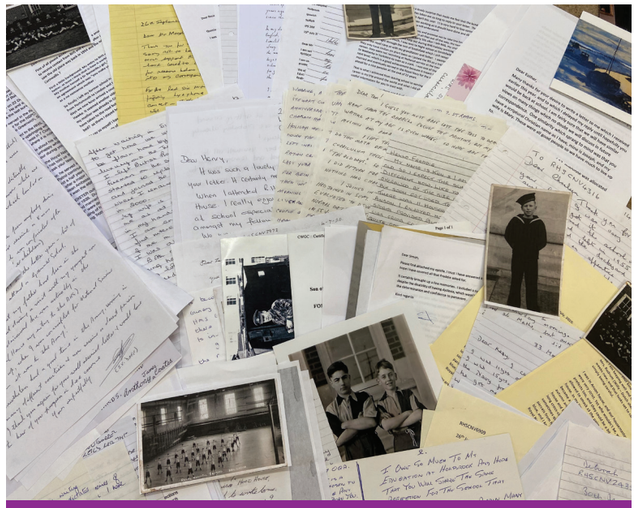


HARVARD BECKONS FOR FORMER HEAD OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to former Head of School Tony Nicholson 倪腾 (Drake, 2004) who's been accepted into Harvard Business School - whilst continuing his work as an actor, producer and personal fitness trainer to some of the world's top executives.

Tony resides in Beijing where he inspires people to transform their lives through his infectiously positive attitude, a thirst for living a healthier life, and his natural ability to create powerful connections with every individual he meets.





REACHING OUT DURING COVID-19

The Letters Home initiative is a joint effort by RHS's Compass Programme and the School's alumni association, and was originally introduced to help build connections with elderly alumni in self-isolation during the COVID-19 lockdown. The School's Compass Programme provides Lower School pupils with citizenship skills and, in this case, to develop their curiosity by asking alumni questions (whilst keeping alive the disappearing art of the handwritten letter). The initiative formed part of the School's remote curriculum, which meant all 750 pupils the world over were able to continue their studies via online teaching.

If you have some news you'd like to share, please email ***lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org***

HELPING EACH OTHER ON THE CAREER LADDER

Natasha Jones (Cornwallis, 2014) returned to RHS to speak at a Sixth Form Assembly, explaining to Years 12 and 13 the importance of using the alumni network - whether that be attending the Professional Networking Events hosted by the Alumni Office, or connecting to former pupils via LinkedIn.



She pointed out how networking can appear intimidating initially, but using just three RHS students as examples, she illustrated the power of the alumni network and the diversity of the careers that have been undertaken by former pupils – encouraging everyone to reach out to the network to help themselves get ahead.

Natasha also talked about the importance of gaining work experience in the holidays or on a gap year. She herself worked as a commercial photographer for an independent menswear retailer, later gaining work as a junior stylist at events like London Fashion Week, before going to the University of York to study History of Art. She now works at global media agency Wavemaker as a Strategist, alongside her best friend from school Katie Taylor (Hood, 2014) who also secured a position at the company.

AS HER TIME IN THE NAVY DREW TO AN END, ALUMNA CAPTAIN (RETD) LUCY KNOWLES-VOLLENTINE RN RETURNED TO RHS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 26 YEARS, TO TAKE THE SUNSET AND LEAVERS' DIVISIONS SALUTE, BRINGING HER BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN. WE CAUGHT UP WITH LUCY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER ADVENTUROUS CAREER.

Lucy Knowles-Vollentine: coming full circle



Lucy Knowles-Vollentine (Hood, 1993) was part of the first cohort of girls who entered Sixth Form in 1991. She left RHS to follow in the footsteps of her father and brother by joining the Royal Navy, and was promoted to Captain in 2018. Lucy is married to Chris and they have two children, Daisy and Alfie.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL?

Sam, my brother, was at RHS from 1982 to 1987, so I had been there many times and thought it was amazing. When I heard that RHS was to open to girls, my parents asked if I would like to go and I jumped at the chance. It was daunting as well as exciting; it felt like an adventure, although when we walked into the DH for the first time we were met with hundreds of staring eyes, which was a bit intimidating!

WHAT WERE YOUR FAVOURITE AND NOT-SO-FAVOURITE BITS?

I loved my A Level subjects (Politics, English and Biology), and the teachers were so friendly. The sport was also great. On the down side, General Studies A Level felt like a waste of time and the wind off the Stour in winter was particularly 'character building', especially on the hockey pitch – although it was good preparation for Dartmouth!

> "I firmly believe that if you enjoy what you do, it is easier to be good at it. That, combined with hard work and being a team player

ARE YOU STILL IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE FROM SCHOOL?

I've bumped into people from the School throughout my career and, in fact, I have never served on a ship or base where there hasn't been someone from RHS. Whilst serving at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan there were 10 of us just in one area.

YOU JOINED THE ROYAL NAVY STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL, WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN UP?

I had places at university, but joining the Navy was in my heart. I had been on both my dad's and brother's ships growing up, and that's where I knew I belonged - my blood runs dark blue!

I joined Dartmouth (Britannia Royal Naval College) at a real time of change. The WRNS were only sea-going from 1991, and they were disbanded at the end of 1993. I joined in September 1993, so technically I was a WRNS Officer for the first three months, but my timing was perfect as we were the first entry to wear the same uniform as the men and compete on a truly equal footing. To me it was no different to being at Holbrook!

YOU HAVE HAD VERY VARIED ROLES WITHIN THE NAVY. HOW HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED THIS?

I firmly believe that if you enjoy what you do, it is easier to be good at it. That, combined with hard work and being a team player. You need to show you can deliver in different environments and roles. That said, there was plenty of fun too. I forfeited leave once to spend 10 days with the Navy in Hong Kong, and ended up working with the Maritime Police, chasing smugglers. I also spent two weeks in Annapolis with the US Navy, where the Governor of Maryland gave us honorary citizenship, and I have been on an expedition to Mount Everest.

DID YOU PLAN TO HAVE A FULL CAREER IN THE NAVY?

I knew I wanted a career in the Navy, but as an 18-year-old, my view was 'let's see where it takes me'. I was looking for adventure.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED?

Antarctic seas with waves bigger than my ship, roles where I had to 'wing it with confidence', and coming under fire.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION YOU HAVE BEEN IN AND HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME IT?

Whilst returning home from deployment on HMS Illustrious in 2006, we were re-tasked and given four days to plan, store, form a task group, and get to the eastern Med (from Gibraltar) to evacuate thousands of British dependants from Beirut. I was appointed the Task Group Logistics Commander, and as you can imagine this was a Logs-heavy operation. Your training and team come in to play at a moment like this so, difficult? No. Challenging? Definitely. Rewarding? Absolutely.

YOU MUST HAVE SEEN CONFLICT IN YOUR TIME SERVING?

I was based in Afghanistan in 2011. I had an eclectic portfolio and was the theatre lead for all personnel issues from fatality repatriation to welfare provision. Although I wasn't on the front line, I had to travel around, and there were certainly times I still haven't told my mum about...

WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION AND WHY?

My dad. He was the consummate professional, loved the sea, and was a truly wonderful father.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Go for it!

YOU RETURNED TO RHS AS THE REVIEWING OFFICER FOR THE SUNSET CEREMONY. WHAT DID THAT FEEL LIKE?

I hadn't been back to RHS before - not a conscious decision, as I knew I would one day. I am a great believer in fate and so when I was contacted by the School and offered the opportunity to take Sunset at the Reunion Weekend, as well as the salute at Leavers' Divisions, I didn't hesitate. I knew I had done everything I wanted to in the Navy and was about to leave, so thought it would be a great way to finish my time - coming full circle back to where it all started. Standing on the Dais was truly an emotional experience, and one I will never forget.

YOU RETIRED FROM THE ROYAL NAVY LAST AUTUMN AND NOW WORK FOR THE BRITISH RED CROSS. WHAT IS YOUR NEW ROLE?

I joined the British Red Cross in March as an International Emergency Relief Logistician. However, COVID-19 put my training on hold as half my cohort are based in high-risk countries. We have continued the training via Zoom, but the residential weeks have been postponed until next year. I spent lockdown at home with the children which has been wonderful. ■

Opposite page: Lucy taking Divisions in June 2019

Below: Lucy taking on Everest

Bottom: Lucy with her father on board HMS Duncan





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*** *chats to* ***Emily Sweeney****.*

"I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE OF TRAVEL AND DREAMED OF BECOMING AN AIRLINE PILOT. MY UNCLE WORKED FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS AND WOULD RECOUNT STORIES OF THE PLACES HE HAD VISITED," EMILY SWEENEY (HOWE, 2013) EXPLAINS.

On leaving RHS, Emily managed to secure a work placement at Marlborough College in Malaysia, through a connection of former Headmaster, Mr Blackett. During her year away she was able to travel in the school holidays, taking a lot of flights in the process. "Living and working overseas really gave me the confidence to say 'Yes, I could be a pilot!'."

But on her return to the UK, Emily found that BA had closed their pilot scheme, so instead she opted to go to university to study Business and Spanish. Whilst at Queen's University Belfast, she joined the University Air Squadron, which gave her an opportunity to take part in flying training, force development, and adventure training. "One day after completing a loop-the-loop with a pilot in a Tutor T1, I thought 'This is fantastic!'. That was the day my dream became more than a dream," Emily smiles.

In her final year of university, Emily applied to the Generation EasyJet Pilot Programme. "Applying online was easy, I needed to submit a CV, and answer questions such as 'why do you want to be a pilot?', and 'what can you offer in return?'. Basically the same type of questions one is asked in an interview." The second stage was an aptitude test, and she passed all the modules except for the joystick test. It would be six months before Emily could reapply. Determined to pass, she purchased a joystick to practise, and on the second attempt she passed. Then followed the final stage – in-person interviews and a group assessment. "The interview questions were primarily on leadership, teamwork, and passion for the aviation industry. The interviews I had as part of my application for my placement year in Malaysia really helped give me the experience I needed to cope with the interview process," she explains.



Above: Emily in a simulator

The following day Emily received the phone call to say that she had been successful. "I was over the moon!" she recalls.

In July 2019 Emily started her theory course, which would last seven months. With lessons from 8am until 4pm, Monday to Friday, and lots of studying into the early hours, the seven-month course was intensive to say the least. After many hours of dedication, Emily successfully passed all 14 exams.

The Programme's six-month practical training takes place in either Cranfield, Bournemouth, Portugal or New Zealand. Emily was absolutely delighted to find out that her entire cohort had been selected to spend six months in Hamilton, New Zealand. Now it was time to start the hands-on side of the course – flying!

But then COVID-19 struck, and Emily's training came to a grinding halt. She patiently waited for her training to restart, but in early September EasyJet decided to terminate all their contracts with their trainees. As disappointing as the news is, Emily is adamant she is not going to give up on her dream. "My plan is definitely to continue training and get my license. I will just have to take a slightly different route."

We wish Emily the very best of luck - and who knows, in a few years' time, she might be your pilot when you're travelling abroad! ■

Decide. Plan. Succeed. Then give back...

TOM (ST VINCENT, 1998) AND VICKY (HOWE, 1999) PRATT FIRST MET AT RHS, BEFORE GOING ON TO GET MARRIED, HAVE SUCCESSFUL CAREERS, AND BRING THREE CHILDREN INTO THE WORLD. BOTH RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL TO SUPPORT OUR ALUMNI PROGRAMME, INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION TO GRASP THEIR STUDY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BOTH HANDS. REBECCA WINWARD (CORNWALLIS, 1997) CAUGHT UP WITH TOM AND VICKY TO FIND OUT MORE...



You might think that Tom and Vicky Pratt have careers with utterly different challenges – he works for one of the most recognisable brands in the world, while she has launched her own small business start-up – but in fact they have a lot in common. And we don't just mean their educational start in life, having both left RHS in the late 1990s.

Chatting to Tom and Vicky, it becomes clear that central to both their careers is a tale of setting a goal, planning carefully, and then just going for it. "I was coasting in Year 12, and Mr March took me aside and asked me what I wanted from RHS. I said that I wanted to be a Chief (prefect), and gain my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. He then replied 'So, do you think you're on that path?' and I realised the answer was obviously 'no'." From that moment, Tom says he decided to not just show up, but own it.

And own it he certainly did. After university he joined Black & Decker's graduate scheme, rising to General Sales Manager within five years – quite an achievement. But Tom had bigger dreams. He had developed an interest in consumer brands, and Apple was the newest player in town. "I wanted to work for this fast-growing company, so I researched where they posted their jobs and what type of employee they were looking for," he recalls. In 2009 Tom joined Apple as a National Account Manager. "I was there when the first iPad and iPhone were launched," he smiles. "But the R&D was so secretive that I found out about the products the same day as the general public did!"



After stints at Acer and Samsung, Tom joined Google in 2014 to launch their Google-branded devices. He is currently Head of Business & Operations, Chrome OS Lead UK&I – developing Chromebooks for the consumer market. He's clearly still 'owning it'. "Only you can motivate yourself," he advises. "Don't think about what you want to do, think about what you want to achieve. Identify the right people who can help you, and go for it!"

Vicky's business may differ in scale and sector, but there's nothing different about her drive for career success. RHS's male/female ratio (roughly four boys to every girl, at the time) stood her in good stead when she started her career in two very male-dominated industries, pharmaceuticals and fleet vehicles (there is nothing Vicky doesn't know about a van!). "Both were very competitive," she says. "I was the only woman at the table, and really enjoyed being under-estimated!" A career change found her working at the University of Essex, running a team of educational advisors, but after the birth of the couple's third child, Vicky felt like a new challenge.

A chat with long-time friend Catherine Sullivan (Blake, 1997), led to the answer.



"Catherine was just moving back from Dubai, and was in the process of starting a business to provide postpartum gift packs for new mums," Vicky recalls. "She had already done the market research, product development and website design, but didn't have experience in sales or customer relations, which I did." Working together, Mama Hug was born.

Using a similar focus on objective setting and careful strategy planning as Tom employed in his career progression, Vicky and Catherine have achieved strong business growth for Mama Hug right from the start. "Lockdown has actually been a period of increasing sales for us," Vicky explains, "because friends and family who were unable to visit new mums instead looked for a mail-order way to express their affection and support." But the pair haven't just been fulfilling demand, they've been driving it forward, with new products in the offing (not just new boxes for postpartum mothers, but also a self-care subscription service for pregnancy), and plans to expand into overseas delivery, as well as a new deal with high-street retailer Jojo Maman Bébé – which will see Mama Hug products sold online through the leading boutique mother and baby brand.

We were delighted when Tom and Vicky offered their time to help our pupils and alumni navigate their own career success. Tom first became involved with the School again in 2015 when he attended one of our London networking events, before hosting a networking event for us at Google HQ – an incredible venue! More recently, he was the keynote speaker at STEMfest 2019 (an event which connected children from 13 East Anglian schools with 21 leading organisations), and he also mentors recent leavers. Vicky visited RHS in 2019, to speak to our first-year BTEC Business and Entrepreneurship pupils. "I was really impressed with the pupils' insightful questions about our funding, business plan and other aspects. Their questioning even made me look again at some of the decisions we had made!" she laughs. Vicky and Catherine plan to return soon, to give the class an update.

Are you interested in hosting an event or inspiring the next generation? Contact Lucy Pembroke via email (*lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org*) or call 01473 326110 to see how you could get involved.



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Opposite page: Tom and Vicky in their garden, and the children, Elijah, Hugo and Sophie

Above left: Vicky and Catherine, planning Mama Hug's expansion

Left: Mama Hug's gift boxes are designed for new mums

Tom Peters: how to get ahead in advertising



> I was 22 years old, working in a global agency, on an account which was one of their longest-standing client relationships. I definitely felt out of my depth at times!

SOME OF OUR LEAVERS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT TO DO FOR A CAREER, WHILE SOME HAVEN'T YET PINNED DOWN A CLEAR DIRECTION. TOM PETERS (DRAKE/RALEIGH, 2012) THOUGHT HE KNEW HIS PATH, BUT HAD A CHANGE OF HEART DURING HIS GAP YEAR. WE HAD A CHAT WITH HIM TO FIND OUT MORE...

YOU SPENT YOUR GAP YEAR WORKING AT THE KING'S SCHOOL, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF?

It was my childhood ambition to join the British Army and follow in the footsteps of my family. But being outside of my comfort zone (and home country) taught me a lot about myself. I realised an Army career might not allow me to indulge in the things I enjoyed, so I made use of The King's School's network, and my own connections, to explore other careers. This is how I stumbled on advertising – at school I loved both business and media studies, and the industry seemed a better fit for me than the Army.

YOU WERE PLANNING TO RETURN TO STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS. WHAT HAPPENED?

University was something I was always hesitant about. I was offered a graduate placement as an Account Executive at DDB Australia and chose to take that instead of returning to the UK to study.

BACK IN THE UK YOU JOINED LEO BURNETT AS AN ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY EXCITING TO JOIN SUCH A LARGE GLOBAL COMPANY?

It was brilliant to be able to work in such a well-known ad agency. Since being founded in Chicago in the 1930s, it has created campaigns for some of the world's biggest brands: McDonalds, Proctor & Gamble, Kellogg's, Coca-Cola and Samsung. I was 22 years old, working in a global agency, on an account which was one of their longest-standing client relationships. I definitely felt out of my depth at times!

WHICH BRANDS DID YOU WORK ON AT LEO BURNETT, AND WHAT DID YOUR ROLE INVOLVE?

I was on the P&G Fabric Care team, looking after brands including Fairy Non-Bio and Daz. My day would involve anything from attending briefing calls to assisting in category workshops in Geneva, helping with research, and delivering final TV or print ads to media owners.

YOU THEN MOVED TO ADAM&EVEDDB, WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

adam&eveDDB is a bit of a phenomenon, having started with around 10 people in 2008, and going on to win Agency of the Decade in 2019.

Highlights for me are easily the 'Buster the Boxer' Christmas campaign, and the re-brand of both John Lewis and Waitrose with the 'Bohemian Rhapsody' ad. There were more day-to-day campaigns that ran alongside this, but it's always the adverts the whole nation talks about which get you most excited.



Above right:
Buster the Boxer

YOU'RE NOW FREELANCE. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THAT PATH?

Freelancing is a good way to branch out a bit. You're in control of the contract you take, the agency you work for, and the hours you work. I also think it's a good way to learn the skills you need to run a business, which is something I could see myself doing later down the line.

IN MARCH, THE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT CHANGED. WHAT HAPPENED FOR YOU WORK-WISE?

Unfortunately, large numbers of ad industry staff were furloughed or made redundant. I worked from home for four weeks, before being out of work until August. I kept myself busy though, with online courses on SEM (Search Engine Marketing) and SEO (Search Engine Optimisation). This gave me the capability to pivot my offering to suit small business owners, helping them to market themselves online.

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

Embrace the unknown. It can be daunting, but it's also really exciting. Be resilient, and be persistent. Getting your foot in the door is the hardest part. Also, learn from any (inevitable) bumps in the road as you move onwards and upwards. ■

> Embrace the unknown. This can be daunting, but it's also really exciting

Returning to RHS

LUCY PEMBROKE TALKS TO TWO ALUMNI WHO HAVE RECENTLY REJOINED THE RHS COMMUNITY: DAVID LOVE (RALEIGH, 2003) AS A NEW PARENT, AND ALEX KEMSLEY (HOWE, 2009) AS A TEACHER.



DAVID LOVE, PARENT OF OLIVIA, YEAR 7

David and his wife Melanie returned to RHS this September to drop off their daughter Olivia, who joins RHS in Year 7. David, who is now a Major in the British Army and currently stationed in Cyprus, had always aspired to send his children to the school that gave him so much.

"Despite being somewhat reluctant to attend RHS myself as an unruly 11 year old, it didn't take long for me to recognise the unmatched opportunities this presented," he explains. "I relished in the multitude of sports and extracurricular activities on offer, as well as the novelty of living away from my parents. I can't say I enjoyed 'block jobs' all that much, but RHS certainly became my home-away-from-home and where I developed strong bonds of friendship that have endured to this day."

Comparing his time at RHS with the changes to the School since he left in 2003, David says "I'm hugely impressed with the facilities now in place, particularly the new music department, climbing wall and also the giant leap forward in accommodation standards within the boarding houses, pastoral care, and the exceptional quality of the food served at meal times. But I was also heartened to see some of the unchanging constants: the sense of community within the Dining Hall, and the impressive Chapel where I have very fond memories of belting out hymns and anthems. Returning to RHS was extremely nostalgic."

So why did David feel that RHS would be an ideal school for his daughter? "There's no doubt that RHS was fundamental in channelling my sense of direction," he explains. "My experiences at the School taught me to be resourceful, resilient, compassionate - virtues I value above anything else, and qualities that I wish for my own children to develop."

David now looks forward to the day when his son Archie, who is currently 7, can join his sister as a new boarder, and to see them marching on the parade ground together.



ALEX KEMSLEY, HEAD OF CLASSICS

"I never planned to go into teaching," Alex admits. "In fact, I was completing my application to study for a PhD when, talking to a friend, I came across TES, the publication for teaching roles." Alex's first job was in Norfolk, and whilst there, Classics teacher Derek Cousins contacted her to say that he was retiring and asked whether she would be interested in applying for a position at RHS. Alex was successful in her application, and joined the teaching staff in 2015. "I was a slightly nervous the first time I entered the Common Room, but I needn't have worried. Everyone was so friendly and treated me like an equal."

In 2017, Alex's husband, Oliver, made the decision to train to become a priest, and Alex secured a new job at The Leys School so they could move close to where he would study at Wescott House, Cambridge. "Oliver's parents live in Stutton, so we left the Shotley Peninsula with a heavy heart; we really missed the countryside," she recalls.

In 2020, having completed his training, Oliver returned to Suffolk and was assigned a parish near Snape. Alex's fate was secured when Harriet Izod-Miller, Head of Geography, contacted her to let her know of the Head of Classics vacancy, and in September Alex returned to the School for a third time. "The allure of RHS is just too compelling, I am delighted to be back." ■

Above:
Alex and Oliver on a walking holiday

Opposite page:
David and Olivia on the Dais steps



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PIGEON POST

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SAILING THROUGH LIFE

Harry Allaway (Hawke, 1963) got in touch to tell us his story. He entered his House under the guidance of Stan Good. Whilst at school he was part of the gymnastics and trapeze display teams. He also won the diving competition, and came third in the East Suffolk diving championships. Harry was the first pupil to fully qualify as a lifesaving instructor.

After leaving RHS, Harry joined Portsmouth Dockyard as an apprentice, progressing as a civil servant working for the Royal Navy and Central Government.

His love of sailing saw him compete in four Devizes to Westminster races, winning the Senior Scout trophy in 1980. After gaining his RYA Yachtmaster qualification, he took part in many Tall Ships Races as skipper, and competed in offshore races - including a win in the Fastnet Two-Handed division in 2003.

Harry retired in 2004 and volunteered for Sail Training International – a not-for-profit organisation which promotes sail training for young people - sailing vessels all around Europe, across the Atlantic, and in the Sea of Japan. These days he still enjoys sailing but he only cruises, with the occasional trip on larger vessels for Sail Training International.

A HOUSEMASTER'S UNDERSTANDING



John Rayment (Nelson, 1966) wrote to us to say he'd recently realised that he loved both his father and housemaster George Hardy in the same way.

At school, John and Mr Hardy formed an understanding. Mr Hardy tried to ignore John's 'free spirit' and John accepted the resultant punishment. The 'understanding' was along the lines of John scoring lots of points in sport (the only thing he says he was any good at) towards the King's Banner (known as the Queen's Banner from 1968) for the House, and Mr Hardy looked the other way until John overstepped the mark, which he invariably did.

On leaving RHS John assumed that was that. However, some years later, he started writing to Mr Hardy, in his capacity of Secretary of the OBA (RHSA) magazine. It would have stayed that way if John's wife hadn't addressed a card to 'George' once, and thereafter they became closer friends, writing to each other about six times a year. In 2008, John and his wife Barbara spent a wonderful day at the home of George and Anne.

If you have some news you'd like to share, please email ***lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org***

IZZY MAKES THE MOST OF HER GAP YEAR

Izzy Durrant (Raleigh, 2018) got in touch to tell us she worked at a Knightsbridge school as a Gap Assistant for the autumn and spring terms in 2018/19. She explained the school was a fantastic place to meet lots of wonderful new friends after spending seven years in the RHS bubble!



Izzy then went travelling around New Zealand for a month, which included visiting the North Island and Bay of Islands. The experience was rich with culture and lots of fun, she explains her highlight was a 15,000 ft sky dive! She is now in her second year of Law at Oxford Brooke's University which she has found both challenging and deeply rewarding.

TOM JOINS THE MARINES

Since leaving RHS, Tom Hibbard (Hawke, 2019) has been physically ready to start at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM). After passing the selection process, he started his initial training in June 2020, completing the eight-week course. He is looking forward to completing the next 29 weeks of training to earn his green beret.

ON AN UPWARD SPIRAL

It would probably surprise most of her teachers to know that Emma White (Cornwallis/Blake, 1997) actually graduated from university – she tells us – after being on report for the majority of her senior years, and never swapping her 'scummer' tie for one of a higher position!



Over the last seven years she has worked in South Korea and Australia, teaching science and English. Returning to the UK, she joined University College, London, as Undergraduate Admissions Officer (Engineering), and just before lockdown secured a new role of Admissions & Outreach Officer for the Law Faculty at the University of Oxford. She regularly meets with Melissa Thompson (Cornwallis/Blake, 1997) and Charlie Bedford (St Vincent, 1999).

A ST VINCENT BOY RECALLS

Dick (Richard) Church (St Vincent, 1945) tells us that he left RHS to become a Shipfitter Apprentice at Chatham Dockyard, working mainly on submarines until his apprenticeship was complete. In 1950 he joined the RAF as a Flight Mechanic (engines) in Bomber Command, as part of National Service.

Upon completing his National Service Dick worked for a variety of companies as an engineering draughtsman, until he joined the Weir Group as a Senior Sales Engineer in their London Office. He goes on to explain that his proudest moment was being commissioned in the RAF Volunteer Reserves as a Flying Officer.

He took early retirement, aged 55, and – now aged 90 – he lives comfortably with Louisa, his wife of 70 years, and is in good health. He often wonders what befell all his St Vincent housemates.

GILES HEADS TO DURHAM UNIVERSITY

The last 12 months have been very busy for Giles Lennox (Cornwallis, 2020). Being appointed as Deputy Head Boy meant more admin in his final year whilst juggling his studies and extra-curricular pursuits. Despite this, he tells us his last two terms were highly memorable; highlights included reaching the national final of the ESU debating competition, captaining the 2nds hockey, and attending the various formals as part of Nelson House.



When lockdown was implemented, Giles was devastated but has used the time wisely, working on his father's farm. Giles says he was 'chuffed' when awarded A* A* A in his A Levels and he started his Law degree at Durham this autumn. He looks forward to returning for the Nelson 2020 March Off and the obligatory Unit 17 nightclub trip!



LIVING LIFE FULL THROTTLE

After leaving RHS, Jeremy Richens (Anson, 1984) spent a couple of years at college near Portsmouth, before moving to London. He taught tennis and swimming before embarking on a career in media. Jeremy worked for Getty Images, covering three Olympic Games, then undertook a two-year stint with the Yamaha MotoGP team, followed by several years working on sponsorship activation and creative media in Formula 1. He set up a film production company in 2010, focusing on the motorsport and automotive sectors, before selling up and moving to Oxfordshire with his wife Kate and daughter Georgia. He is now Executive Producer at Aston Martin Lagonda.

2020: IT DIDN'T QUITE GO TO PLAN

Well what a year 2020 has been for George Franks (Cornwallis, 1981) - and the rest of us of course! It all began with a two-week trip to South Africa with the England Cricket Team. One Day Tests and T20 cricket, plus plenty of travelling, and the opportunity to photograph the amazing landscapes and wonderful wildlife. George met up with RHS legend Don Topley (Raleigh, 1981), who is an old friend, and the perfect guide (having spent many winters in South Africa), plus he know a little about cricket!.



Then the pandemic hit and so did furlough – well, George tells us he loved it! He bought a poly tunnel, had no idea what he was growing, but says his garden had so much colour at the end of it that he must have been doing something right. He was also able to continue volunteering for Night Stop, an organisation which finds a safe place for young homeless people to stay, from two to seven nights at a time.

TOR'S GAP YEAR TRAVELS

After finishing at RHS, Tor (Victoria) Williams (Hood, 2019) spent six months working in a local pub and nannying to save up for her travels. In January, she set off on her planned six months away, starting in Bali, before landing in Australia. She tells us a particular highlight was visiting the Whitsunday Islands to snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef, a truly unforgettable experience. Unfortunately, after arriving in Vietnam, the Coronavirus situation became increasingly unavoidable, resulting in an early trip home after just three months. Whilst this was disappointing, Tor explains she is hopeful to travel again soon. In the meantime, she has begun her degree in Criminal Justice & Criminology at Leeds University.



NOT JUST SHIP'S BISCUITS



This past year Graham Swift (Anson, 1954) has been writing his long-planned book about ships. Liners to be exact, their owners, and the food served onboard over the years. As a boy, living near Southampton, Graham always wondered where the ships he saw where going and what they served. In 1966, when sailing to America, Graham collected his first ship's menu and today has amassed a collection of more than 1,000.

In his new book Graham writes about the history of each ship, her owner, and the food that was prepared in the galley - including details of 75 menus from British and foreign ships, selected for their historical significance. One example is the menu served to Winston Churchill on 24 September 1944, aboard The Queen Mary, following a meeting with President Roosevelt to discuss the atom bomb. Graham says, "I believed my task would be simple. I was wrong!"



THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE, THEN A DEGREE

After having his final year at RHS cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tom Boore (Drake, 2020) was left unsure what the next few months would hold in terms of his educational journey. During lockdown he secured a job working for Tesco as a personal shopper, with shifts starting at 4am, five days a week, enabling him to earn money and gain new employment skills. Tom received an unconditional offer to study Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Pearson College, London, which he began in September 2020, and he also hopes to gain further experience with summer internships during his studies to obtain maximum industry experience.

A LIFE OF GOOD WORKS

Samuel (Sam) Philpott (Cornwallis, 1957) wrote to us recalling his Housemaster Leslie Burbidge and Matron Isobel Chamberlain. The Cornwallis motto from his time ICE (Integrity - Courage - Enthusiasm) has never left him.



Sam was the first boy in RHS history to go straight from School to ordination. He attended Kelham Theological College, Newark, from 1957 and was made Deacon in 1965, becoming a Priest in 1966. In 1970 he married Gillian, and they have three children.

He became Vicar of St Peter, Plymouth, in 1978, becoming a Prebendary of Exeter in 1992, before retiring in 2013. He was then invited by Plymouth City Council to become the Independent Champion for Children in Poverty, a responsibility that he continues to hold to this day, with a great sense of privilege. Sam was awarded an MBE in 2011, and the Freedom of the City of Plymouth in 2015.

If you have some news you'd like to share, please email ***lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org***

GENEVIEVE'S PRE-UNI LOCKDOWN

Genevieve Pringle (Hood, 2020) started studying Biology and Chemistry at Durham University this autumn. The course allows her to study multiple science subjects together, although she plans to keep a focus on biology and economics. During lockdown she mainly focused on spending time with her family and unwinding, though she completed a couple of online courses on neuroscience, and economics to explore her interests. Genevieve also spent time going for dog walks and runs, and of course watching Netflix.



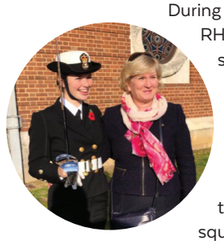


ALAN'S LIFETIME OF RHS CONNECTION

Alan Myers (Hawke, 1951) tells us that he joined the P&O Group after leaving RHS, and worked for the firm for more than 44 years. Although he did not actually serve at sea, he travelled to nearly every port in the world, eventually becoming responsible for all the land and air arrangements for the company's worldwide fleet of passenger ships. After retiring he and his wife Iris went on three consecutive round-the-world cruises. Alan and Iris, who have just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary, are regular attendees at our musical concerts as well as always attending Remembrance Sunday. He is also former Vice President of both the old Chatham and East Anglia branches of the RHSA.

JOSIE GRASPS THE OPPORTUNITIES

For Josie Ruffles (Raleigh, 2020) the last 12 months have been extremely busy.



During her final year of RHS, she tells us she wanted to try everything the school had to offer. This included marching on the parade square as a Guard Commander, captaining the sailing team and of course attending all the Nelson events (her favourite being Trafalgar night!). She is hoping to travel for a few months in the early part of 2021 with another former RHS pupil, Rosie George (Howe, 2020). The two are planning to volunteer in Fiji for a month, and then go on to explore the other Pacific islands, where Josie is hoping to teach sailing.

KEN'S TWO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS

On leaving School, Ken Wilson (Hawke, 1971) joined Marconi Space and Defence in Portsmouth in the Underwater Weapons Division as a Torpedo Trials Engineer, working with the Royal Navy. He tells us this job took him to the north-west of Scotland, where he worked at the British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC) for the next 20 years.

Seeking a new direction (or, as he muses, a mid-life crisis!) he went to Glasgow University, graduating as a teacher of design and technology and plying his trade in Fort William for six years, before moving to Inverness as Head of Department. Now enjoying retirement, overlooking the Caledonian Canal, Ken explains he still has a hectic life. He's actively involved in Scouting, where he is the District Commissioner for Ross-Shire, and enjoys both fishing and hill walking.



ONE OF OUR BOYS IN BLUE



Shaun Bridle (Collingwood, 1990) tells us he is married with two daughters and four grandchildren. Joining the Police in 1994, he was originally based in the West Midlands, before transferring in 2009 to Warwickshire Police on a promotion. Shaun is currently Strategic Roads Policing Sergeant, where his roles include Road Death Lead Investigator, BikeSafe Lead, VIP escort motorcyclist, and overall promotion of road safety to reduce the number of casualties on our roads. He is thoroughly enjoying life and work, but is looking forward to retirement in a few years' time.



OLLIE GETS HIS WINGS

In March this year Captain Ollie Lockwood AAC (Raleigh, 2011) gained his Army Pilot wings at RAF Shawbury, and is now moving onto RNAS Yeovilton to fly the Army battlefield reconnaissance Wildcat helicopter.

Ollie's career so far has seen him serve as a Troop Commander with the Royal Artillery, and as a Second-in-Command for 1 Regiment AAC's REME Workshops.

A LETTER FROM CHINA



Whilst in Pakistan in 2005, Kevin Walker (St Vincent, 1999) changed his name to Kabir Walker. For the last year he has been based in China, remotely consulting for banks around the world, whilst also working to improve his written Chinese. He tells us he is just about to read the book *From Stripes to Stars* by RHS alumnus Colonel John Doody (Collingwood, 1958).

STUCK IN PARADISE (BUT WITH NO BEER)



At the time of writing, Paul Marshall (Raleigh, 1952) and his Malaysian wife Vicky have been locked down in Kuala Lumpur for four months. Their planned return to their UK home was put on hold indefinitely as the Malaysian government banned all international flights for Malaysian citizens and expatriates. However, they are enjoying the warm weather and the monsoon season provides two downpours a day to cool them down.

Paul has developed a taste for Malaysian food, but with it being a Muslim country, misses beer. He is looking forward to a pint in a pub when they are back in the UK.



ISSY SETS HER SIGHTS ON FOREIGN OFFICE

After leaving RHS, Issy Williams (Hood, 2016) went on to study History at the University of Bristol. Alongside her degree, she tells us she also studied Russian, German and Italian languages, and took part in various Model UN Conferences around the UK. After graduating from Bristol in 2019, she moved to London to study a Masters in Arabic with Near and Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS, University of London. Thus far she has focused on Israel and Central Asian politics, and in 2021 she will spend several months abroad in Jordan for an immersive Arabic course. After her Masters ends next September, she hopes to work for the Foreign Office.



DIMAS LOOKS FORWARD TO BRISTOL UNI



It has been a truly extraordinary year for Dimas Valls Quiros (Hawke, 2020). In the summer of 2019 he went off to Kenya with a group of RHS students on a volunteering expedition, which he describes as "unbelievably eye-opening." He then spent his last weeks of summer in Minorca, getting ready to embark on his new journey as Head Boy – but of course his final year didn't go to plan. "It has been a challenging yet very rewarding opportunity," he tells us. "Though I am quite sad to not being able to finish the academic year properly." Dimas leaves RHS with three A*s and two As. He says he is "forever grateful for all that RHS has given me," as he looks forward to continuing his journey at Bristol University.

IN SPLENDID ISOLATION



In December 2019, COVID-19 had not been widely heard of in the UK, and self-isolation was unimaginable. How lucky then that Phillip Mason (Anson, 1954) and his wife Julie accepted an invitation to return for a second time to 'farm sit' on 25,000 acres in outback Queensland, Australia, which carried approximately 1,500 head of cattle.

Queensland was in drought conditions, and the cows were in calf, so they required supplementary feeding - this took the form of a tonne of 'dry lick', made up of vitamins and minerals, delivered to the cattle on the back of a Land Cruiser twice a week. Every two weeks, Phillip and his wife made the visit to the nearest town, Biloela, 100km from the farm, to stock up on supplies. Apart from this, and monthly visits by the owner, they saw no-one for weeks. "As Australia and the rest of the world went into lockdown and self-isolation due to COVID-19, our farm was probably in one of the safest places in Australia," Phillip explains to us.

GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER

Jeff Stewart (Drake, 1975) has been living in Australia since 1980. The photograph is of his parents, taken in 1955. He wonders if anyone can guess where the photo was taken – one clue is that his father was based at Chatham. Jeff was fortunate to catch up with the famous Monty Callow when he visited Melbourne in 2019. "Best regards to everyone wherever you may be and CHEERS," Jeff says.



REECE IS PLAYING FOR ENGLAND AGAIN

After five stress fractures of the lower back and one huge back operation, Reece Topley (Drake, 2011) is back in the England squad. He last played for England four years ago, and was a member of the T20 World Cup 'Runners Up' in India in 2016. He resumed his international cricket career in a One Day International (ODI) against Ireland this summer. Bowling nine overs, he claimed a sensational wicket on his last delivery.

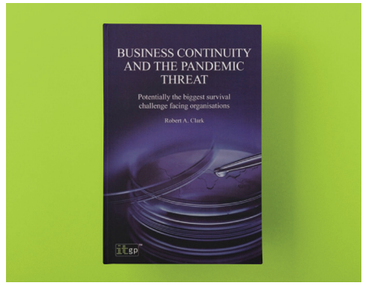


Predicting the pandemic: the man who saw it coming



AN EXPERT IN BUSINESS CONTINUITY, BOB CLARK (RALEIGH, 1968) RECENTLY HAD HIS THIRD BOOK – WHICH OUTLINED THE IMPACT OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC ON BUSINESSES WORLDWIDE – BECOME AN OVERNIGHT BEST-SELLER FOUR YEARS AFTER IT WAS PUBLISHED, FOR RATHER OBVIOUS REASONS. LUCY PEMBROKE FINDS OUT MORE...

Robert (Bob) Clark MSc FBCS FIBCM FISRM MSyI describes himself as an author, trainer and visiting university lecturer. He first became aware of business continuity management (BCM) when he joined IBM in 1973 as a trainee computer operator. Back then the term was just used to refer to disaster recovery in IT. How things have changed since then!



WHEN DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR THE BOOK?

I was invited to deliver a masterclass on business continuity and pandemics in 2015. I ended up with far more research material than I needed for a masterclass, so I decided to use it to write my third book. I did a lot of research on the 2002-3 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, which was the first novel virus of the new millennium. This should have been a wake-up call, demonstrating how fast a novel contagion could spread globally, assisted by modern commercial aviation.

I IMAGINE THAT YOU DIDN'T ENVISAGE A GLOBAL PANDEMIC WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER?

History tells us that we can expect around three severe pandemics every century, so statistically we were due one. The world was expecting a catastrophic Influenza pandemic – the probability of this happening was calculated as being between 1-in-20 and 1-in-2, but we got the Coronavirus instead. Unfortunately, we still have that Influenza pandemic to look forward to.

HOW DID YOU FEEL SEEING YOUR BOOK'S TOPIC BECOME A REALITY?

When the book was published in 2016, the medical profession embraced it enthusiastically, but the business world – my target audience – gave it a cool reception. Some were in denial about the possibility, while others believed the health services of the world would take it in their stride. We now know better. I guess the satisfying part of being proved right is finally being taken seriously by the naysayers. It certainly increased my workload, as my consultancy and training services were much in demand – I found myself working around 16 hours a day, and I didn't take a day off for about six weeks.

YOU'RE IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING A SEQUEL WHILE PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC, WITH RHS FEATURING AS A CASE STUDY, CAN YOU TELL US MORE?

I decided to devote a chapter in the new book on how the pandemic has affected education. In addition to RHS, I have



featured a junior school in Portsmouth, a Chinese School in Hangzhou, the university scene (in both UK and USA), and commercial training, which is one of my own revenue streams. RHS was far better prepared for the pandemic than many businesses were, and I think that is something of which the School should be rightly proud. ■

MYSTERY SOLVED!

THE TENNIS BALL CULPRIT

There are few alumni who haven't heard of the mystery of the tennis ball. But how did it really get up there? And why is it no longer in situ?
We thought it time to turn detective... and struck gold!

RHS FOLKLORE IS RICH AND VARIED, BUT TO MANY THE MOST INFAMOUS IS THE TALE BEHIND HOW THE TENNIS BALL ENDED UP ON THE CAPE OF ST NICHOLAS ABOVE THE CHAPEL STEPS.

There are a number of individuals over the years who have claimed responsibility, but we are certain we have found the original culprit. Only on the condition of his continued anonymity did he agree to tell us his story. We shall call him the 'Tennis Ball Culprit', or 'TBC' for short.

In the summer term of 1973, TBC was in his last year of Sixth Form, and having dropped a subject he found himself with 50% more study time than the other boys. It was a really hot summer, and he had spent many of his free periods down by the river sunbathing – not something we recommend today!

TBC was coming back from the Infirmary, with a tennis racket and ball in hand. As he approached the Chapel smacking the ball against the walls, he made his way around to the Chapel entrance. Typical of a teenage boy he decided to see if he could hit the statue of St Nicholas – again, not something we recommend today!

After about 15 minutes, and by sheer fluke, the ball lodged in the cape of the statue. It was a miracle that he didn't damage or break the stonework. He scarpered, deciding not to tell anyone, and he didn't breathe a word for more than 40 years.

In November 2015 the 'Tennis Ball Culprit' returned to RHS for the first time since leaving. He was walking towards Chapel from the main school block, chatting with a former member of staff, Maggie Good, who started talking about the infamous tennis ball. TBC looked up and was amazed to see the ball still there, he quietly smiled to himself and said, "It was me."

Over the decades the ball had become part of RHS history, and many returning alumni always asked whether the ball was still there.

In the autumn of 2018, disaster struck, and a rumour circulated amongst the Old Boys network that the ball had been removed by the Estates Department (known affectionately as the Worgies). We can confirm, after careful investigation, and speaking to everyone within the Estates Department, that the ball was not removed, but fell and disintegrated, never to be seen again.

Should we reinstate the famed tennis ball? Let us know your thoughts, send an email to lpembroke@royalhospitalschool.org.



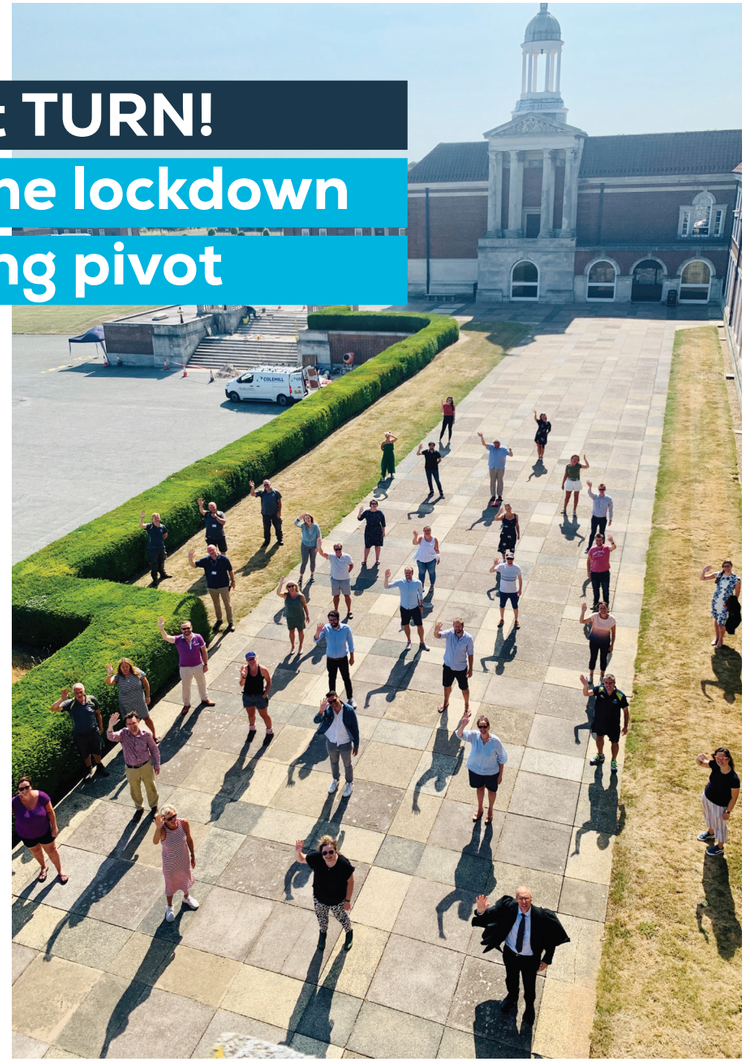
> Should we reinstate the famed tennis ball?



Opposite page:
Crime re-enactment: not the actual ball

About TURN!

RHS and the lockdown learning pivot



WHEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CLOSED SCHOOLS IN MARCH 2020, RHS HAD TO ADAPT, AND FAST. IT WAS NO MEAN FEAT, BUT IN THOSE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF LOCKDOWN 108 TEACHERS DELIVERED 22,000 LESSONS TO 750 PUPILS ACROSS 38 COUNTRIES. LUCY PEMBROKE SPOKE TO A NUMBER OF STAFF TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY, AND ALSO SOUGHT OUT SOME FEEDBACK FROM PUPILS ON HOW THEY FOUND THE SWITCH TO REMOTE LEARNING.



SIMON LOCKYER, HEADMASTER

HOW FAR AHEAD OF LOCKDOWN DID YOU START PLANNING FOR CLOSURE, AND WHAT WERE YOUR PRIORITIES?

From late January we carefully monitored advice from sources including the Boarding Schools' Association, FCO and Public Health England. Our initial focus was on the half-term travel plans of our pupils from China and Hong Kong, although this was quickly extended to include all pupils and staff as the rapid spread of the virus became clear. Contingency measures were put in place, and by the time the government finally announced the closure of schools we were ready to launch our remote teaching programme.

PLANS HAD TO CONTINUALLY EVOLVE, HOW IMPORTANT WERE THE STAFF IN HELPING YOU?

The short-notice changes in guidance made advanced planning difficult, but we succeeded through nimble thinking and making sensible predictions. Whilst each member of the staff played an important role, I am grateful to the senior team who worked through the school holidays to revise and implement our plans. Our Information Systems team, too, has been invaluable, and their innovations ensured that our new world of remote meetings and learning could get underway quickly and smoothly.

> "I especially enjoyed starting some A-Level content early to get a proper introduction into my chosen subjects"
>
> **JAZ, YEAR 11**

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE SCHOOL'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

The fact that we were able to close on Friday, and start online teaching the following Monday was testament to the adaptability and commitment of our teachers. Delivering live lessons around the globe with only a weekend's interruption was a huge achievement, and places us in a fantastic position should there be any future disruption.



ALEX DAVISON, HEAD OF IS

HOW DID THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT PREPARE FOR THE SCHOOL CLOSURE?

It wasn't a reactive process, as we were already exploring Microsoft Teams and OneNote before COVID-19, and had recently introduced a cloud-based system in School.

The first thing we did was look at the elements involved in delivering a class, and how they could be tackled in a digital space – including lesson planning, whiteboard presentations, class discussions, independent learning, and prep submission and marking. We considered various technologies, and decided that Microsoft Teams ticked the boxes most fully.

We delivered three days of training to all staff, with mop-up sessions scheduled for those with concerns. At that point physics teacher Maria Warren was already self-isolating, so we trialled the technology with her delivering lessons from home.

WHAT HURDLES DID YOU OVERCOME?

No technology is perfect, so our biggest hurdle was how we could deliver support virtually. We set up a chat room where staff could post live issues, which enabled our department to address problems immediately. Some staff needed more support than others, but everyone had the right mindset and took to the new way of learning immediately.

HOW HAS IT IMPROVED LEARNING AT RHS?

Being forced to adapt so quickly has pushed us forward about 18 months to two years in terms of our plans to adopt new technology. We're not only enabling our students to learn their subjects, but equipping them with cutting-edge digital skills.

> "I loved the Spanish lessons with Miss Shopova. She sometimes made them interactive by telling us an object in Spanish and we had to rush around the house to find that object (if we could translate!)"
>
> **HENRIETTA, YEAR 7**





DAVID CORBY, TEACHER OF PHYSICS AND BIOLOGY

HOW DID YOU FIND ADAPTING TO THE REMOTE TEACHING TECHNOLOGY?

There was initially some disbelief that School would close, but as pupils started leaving, the realisation set in. Straight after our training session with IS, we started implementing our new knowledge and skills, and as some pupils had already gone home, we were already teaching remotely and were able to gain feedback from them. All the staff embraced the new technology, there was a real buzz in the Common Room and lots of cross-pollination of ideas.

WHAT METHODS DID YOU IMPLEMENT TO KEEP THE PUPILS ENGAGED?

Their feedback was really important. A Year 12 pupil told me that she preferred seeing a teacher rather than watching a screen. So I simply turned the iPad around, using a tripod so my face was at the right level, and wrote on the white board using a thicker marker. Immediately the pupils seemed to prefer that method, and many other teachers adopted the same way of teaching.

I tried to be as animated as possible when talking to the camera, and jokingly referred to my new set-up as 'Corbcasting House'. Attendance from pupils was really good, and there seemed to be a respectful environment. However, you never knew who was watching. I saw a post on Twitter from a parent who said she had learned a lot about biology that day!

HAS ONLINE LEARNING CHANGED THE WAY YOU TEACH?

It has definitely changed the way I engage with technology, I would say I have even become a bit of a 'techie'!

ABSENT SHIPMATES

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 deaths of those below:

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN ABBOTT
(Hawke, 1936) 2019

CECIL HENRY ALLEN
(Howe, 1940) January 2020

DAVID JAMES FRANK AUGER
(Blake, 1973) January 2020

GARRY ALAN BRAME
(St Vincent, 1966) March 2020

DON BULLEN
(St Vincent, 1941) February 2020

IAN PETER CHARLESWORTH
(Collingwood, 1984) April 2020

NIGEL ALLAN MCINTYRE COWAN
(St Vincent, 1973) September 2019

DARRYL EDWARD CULPECK
(Raleigh, 1957) December 2019

RAYMOND CHARLES DARCH
(Nelson, 1943) July 2019

BARRY DUNMORE
(Collingwood, 1945) February 2020

ALFRED CHARLES DUNN
(Anson, 1937) January 2020

HENRY DUROW
(Blake, 1943) July 2020

ERIC FRANCIS EASTWELL
(Cornwallis, 1945) August 2019

STANLEY ALFRED EVERSON
(Hood, 1945) November 2019

ROGER ANTHONY EYRE
(Blake, 1971) December 2019

RICHARD ALAN FIELD
(Anson, 1946) March 2020

JOHN CHRISTOPHER GOLDFINCH
(Cornwallis, 1968) August 2019

JOHN TREVOR GREEN
(Howe, 1950) March 2020

GLENN KEITH HARDING
(Hawke, 1972) August 2019

DEREK GORDON HARMER
(Blake, 1963) August 2019

KEITH HEARN
(Blake, 1955) August 2019

MALCOLM JOHN HERITAGE-OWEN
(Drake, 1963) May 2020

STUART IAN KING
(Collingwood, 1950) January 2020

ALAN FRANCIS LEAR
(Hood, 1963) March 2020

GORDON MALCOLM MCCOOMBE
(St Vincent, 1944) November 2019

ROBERT FRANCIS MCCULLOUGH
(Drake, 1989) January 2020

EDWARD JOHN ROBERT NEWNHAM
(Hawke, 1946) November 2019

STEPHEN MAXWELL O'CONNELL
(St Vincent, 1974) November 2019

JOHN BEAVAN ODEY
(Hood, 1950) April 2020

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER BRIAN CAMPBELL PARK
(Blake, 1987) November 2019

DAVID EDWARD PEPPER
(Hood, 1987) November 2019

DENNIS ARTHUR CHARLES PRENTICE
(Howe, 1945) October 2019

ERIC ROY RIXON (FORMERLY SIZELAND)
(Cornwallis, 1968) July 2020

RONALD ROWE
(Nelson, 1944) June 2020

STEWART ALEXANDER MICHAEL SAMADEN
(Nelson, 1970) July 2020

WILLIAM HENRY SANDERS
(Drake, 1948) February 2020

WILLIAM KENNETH SHORTER
(Raleigh, 1974) November 2019

DAVID WADGE
(Cornwallis, 1955) July 2020

LINDSAY DONALD WATERS
(Nelson, 1971) December 2019

JOHN ESMOND WRIGHT
(Nelson, 1944) July 2020

RICHARD YOUNG
(Drake, 1957) November 2019





NEVILLE BUDD
(St Vincent, 1955)

Neville grew up at Bletchley Park during World War II with his brother, Bobby, and twin sisters Faye and Jean. Their father was the Government Code and Cypher School's Head of Works Services, and they were one of just two families to live on site. None of the children had any idea of the secrets which lay just outside. In fact, the Enigma Codebreakers worked next door. "As children we were not allowed to bring friends home to play, I guess because of the secrecy," Neville once explained. "To us, it was normal." Neville and his sisters only discovered the true story in the 1970s, their father having never mentioned Bletchley during his lifetime.

After attending RHS, Neville joined the Royal Navy as a Voice Radio and Radar Operator serving on a variety of ships and shore stations in England, the Mediterranean and the Far East. In 1959 Neville married Sarah 'Sally' Charnock and lived in Leighton Buzzard until 1983, before moving to South Africa, where they lived for 23 years. Sally passed away in 2012, and Neville returned to the UK, moving close to his childhood home, Bletchley Park. He became a Volunteer Steward and loved nothing more than talking about his childhood there. He enjoyed researching the site's history and published a number of books. Neville sadly died from a COVID-19-related illness in April 2020.



KENNETH GEORGE BOWEN
(Anson, 1951)

Ken was born in Looe, Cornwall, on 28 May 1935. The sea was in his blood - his great uncles were fishermen, and his father was in the Royal Navy. He joined RHS in 1948, before joining the Navy as an Artificer in 1951. He rose through the ranks, and when he met and married Kate he was already a Chief. Ken became a Commissioned Officer in November 1963.

He loved his life in the Navy, travelling the world and living abroad with his family in places such as Singapore and Canada. He greatly enjoyed these experiences, making life-long friends. He loved sports: playing cricket, rugby and tennis himself, and supporting and watching England internationals. Whilst living in Canada, on secondment to the Royal Canadian Navy, Ken was promoted to Commander. In 1989 he received an OBE, which he always down-played. When asked what it was for, he would say "other buggers' efforts."

After retirement he continued to enjoy his association with the Navy and was also a committed member of the Masons, which he found very rewarding. He also continued his passion for painting tall ships, exhibiting them locally and donating some for charity. He sadly passed unexpectedly in August 2019, following a wonderful holiday in France.



WILLIAM CHRISTMAS
(Raleigh, 2018)

Will was tragically killed by a hit-and-run drunk driver, who was apprehended afterwards, in Nottingham - where he was at university studying Politics and International Relations - in March 2020.

Will needed none of the RHS leavers' well-rehearsed calls to their successors to take every opportunity. He embraced so much of all that the School had to offer from the very moment that he joined; such was his *carpe diem* spirit, it is hard to imagine how he might have packed more in. In the classroom, he had both confidence in his own ability and the humility to learn from the wisdom of others, in equal measure; he was a thoughtful and conscientious student. Among his many co-curricular activities, he was a most able debater, a talented saxophonist – he loved being in the Band - and an energetic sportsman, especially skilful on the hockey pitch. He had wonderful *joie de vivre* and an infectious enthusiasm for everything that was going on.

Will's leadership and compassionate heart was recognised when he was appointed as Deputy Head of School. He always had time for everyone, no matter their age or status. He was held in very fond affection - a popular and much-loved pupil who will be greatly missed by his fellow pupils of all ages and by the staff.

Different era, same values-led education

Old Boy Raymond Poingdestre shares with us some recollections of his time at the School in the 1930s – and his newer impressions of it, following a return visit 80 years after leaving, in November 2019.



Above: Ray at RHS
Left: Ray enjoying Divisions

MY NAME IS RAYMOND POINGDESTRE, AND I JOINED RHS IN JANUARY 1936, ONE OF 868 BOYS. NELSON WAS THE NEW ENTRY HOUSE. AT FIRST SIGHT THE SCHOOL WAS AN AWESOME PLACE, AND A SHOCK TO A COUNTRY BOY.

Discipline was prime, being told once was enough, and you soon got used to it. After initial training I was transferred to Collingwood, then a junior house (we wore one green ring on our stockings) and then to Drake, a senior house (we wore two green rings on our stockings). I became a PO boy (prefect) in Drake. I left RHS in June 1939, and went to serve on HMS St Vincent.

Joining RHS was one of the best things that I ever did. I was taught that self-discipline was important to build your character for life - which it certainly did. As well as comradeship and to 'do unto others as you would have done unto you'.

Over the years I have visited RHS several times, mainly in the holidays, for a couple of hours, to show family and friends where I went to school. They were very impressed.

However, last year I arranged to meet Becky Young, from the Alumni Relations team, to answer questions about the old days. Following our meeting I was invited to visit RHS for the November 2019 Remembrance. I was treated like a VIP, everything was laid on, with a grandstand view of the parade. I was looked after by Aimee Frankham (Cornwallis, 1995) and her daughter Olivia (Hood, 2019).

I was very impressed that discipline was still important, as it is sadly missing today in a lot of homes and schools. We visited Drake, where the staff and pupils were all pleased to talk to us and ask us about the School when we were there.

Many, many thanks to everyone for a very enjoyable weekend. I am very proud to be an Old Boy. I was so pleased to find out about the Centennial Bursary Fund, which is raising money to give pupils today the opportunities that I had. I wholeheartedly support this initiative and encourage you all to give. ■



> If anyone is considering visiting RHS, I would heartily recommend it

Following Raymond's visit, the Head of Drake, Sophie D, sent this communication to the Alumni Relations Office: "I would just like to say how great it was to meet the Old Boys in Drake on Saturday afternoon. We all found it very interesting hearing about how much the School has changed. Additionally, it was nice to speak to a man in his 90s who was here when the school moved to Holbrook and his experience of RHS. Myself, Harry, Savannah, Ella, Emma and Celeste all really enjoyed the experience and would like to say thank you."

Ray was amongst hundreds of older alumni to receive a 'Letter Home' from RHS pupils during lockdown. His letter was from 11 year old, David from East London. Being 'more of a talker than a writer', rather than pen a letter back, Ray joined David and his classmates for a remote RHS Compass Programme lesson. David asked Ray all about RHS in the 1930s, and together the class explored their place in the story of RHS and its role as a foundation for life.

LOOKING BACK

RHS ARCHIVE

10 YEARS AGO
2010

25 YEARS AGO
1995

50 YEARS AGO
1970

BAND PLAYS AT SIX NATIONS MATCH

An invitation to play at what some might call one of the nation's greatest sporting events – the Bentley Half Marathon – would have us hastily organising extra practices and even a warm-up concert at the little-known Twickenham stadium. We jest, of course! Playing at Twickenham for the England vs France Six Nations match was truly an occasion to remember and was, for many, a highlight of their time in the band.



BOARDING HOUSE RENOVATION FINALLY COMPLETED

The conversion of Blake into our fourth girls' house took place during the summer, and on 20 October it was officially opened by Mrs Lilias Sheepshanks, a member of the Management Committee.

The arrival of 62 girls, some of them moving from Cornwallis – with a new Housemistress, Mrs Dinah Clayton from Benenden School, Kent – signalled the end of the boarding modernisation programme, which had begun in 1988 with the conversion of Nelson into an Upper Sixth boys' house.



VISIT OF HRH PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On 1 June the Duke of Edinburgh, piloting a Wessex helicopter, landed on the school parade ground to begin his visit to the School. The routine for the day was slightly rearranged to give the Duke an idea of the range of activities which the boys enjoyed.

After congratulating the school on its facilities and equipment, he commented "as a place to learn it would be difficult to find anything as good as this."



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