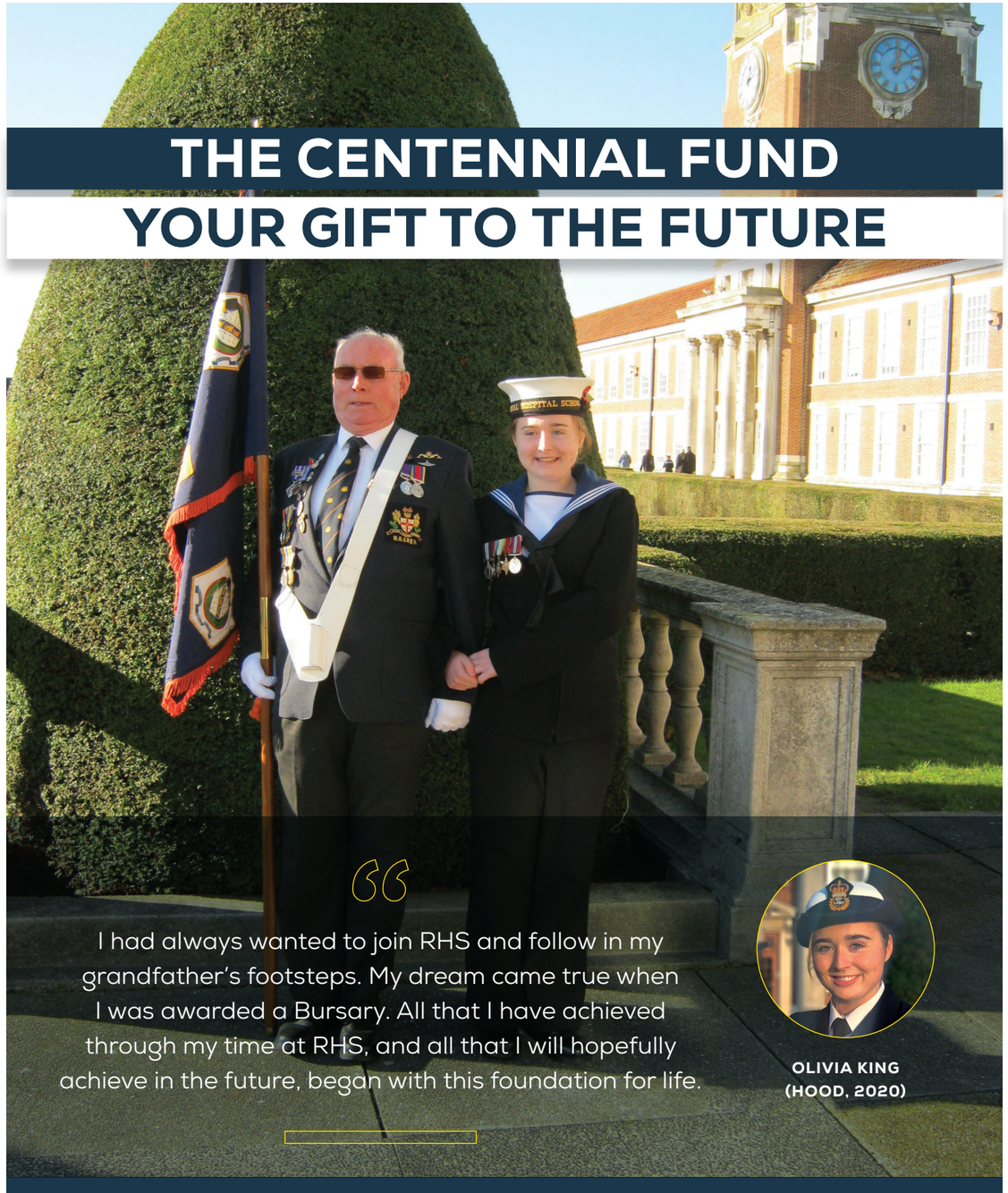
GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



CONNECT INSPIRE BELONG



THE CENTENNIAL FUND

YOUR GIFT TO THE FUTURE

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

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE:

05 REFLECTING ON 2021
06 YEAR IN REVIEW
10 DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE
12 RHS@25
14 INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR
16 ALWAYS 'PART OF RHS'
18 PIGEON POST
24 ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
26 CELEBRATING RHS COUPLES
28 #RHSMADEME
30 BEHIND THE SCENES
32 IN TRIBUTE
33 ABSENT SHIPMATES
34 BGT WINNER 2020
35 THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

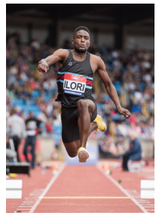
GIDGE Magazine is sent free to RHS alumni, and is also available for download at www.royalhospitalschool.org/gidge.

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2019 Suffolk Carbon Charter GOLD

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Cover photo: Jonathan Ilori (Hawke, 2011), professional triple jumper.



FEATURES



DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE
Brian Wheeler's life changed overnight when a disc penetrated his spinal cord, rendering him paralysed. His story tells of his determination to prove the doctors wrong.



RHS@25: LIZZIE BLACKETT
Did Lizzie become a teacher because both her parents were teachers? "Oh no!" she says. 'I spent my entire life living on a school campus, so was hugely put off."



INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR: IAN ANNETT
Would you like a career in one of the UK's fastest-growing sectors? Ian Annett explains why "space is not just for scientists!"



ALWAYS 'PART OF RHS'
Will Christmas and Tom Miller tragically died within the space of 10 months. Their friends and families celebrated both of their lives through sport, raising £75k for charity.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
Self-taught photographer Harry Wheeler-Brand talks about how he turned his passion for photography into a full-time career.



#RHSMADEME CAMPAIGN
What better way to showcase the benefits of an RHS education, than by highlighting the achievements of our incredible alumni.

Welcome

In the last 18 months, we have all been reminded how isolation and a lack of social connection affects us. And how important our need is to interact with one another, as well as how difficult life can be when the liberty to do so is removed. People need other people, and friends need their friends. With this in mind, I want to highlight a moving piece from Head Girl Jessie Jordan (Hood, 2021), opposite, where she recounts her experiences of the past year. It's quite incredible how resilient our most recent alumni and pupils have become, continuing their RHS education under such circumstances.

Flicking through the drafts for this issue, I also came across an article about the latest School marketing campaign, developed jointly between the Marketing Department and the Alumni Office, showcasing the successes of some of our alumni. It really struck a chord, and I wanted to share with you my experience of #RHSMadeMe.

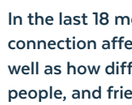
When my friends at primary school learned I was sitting the entrance exam for RHS, they laughed and joked. "You have no chance of passing," they said. I remember the words well, but I passed, much to my own surprise, and arrived at RHS in September 1971. I was assigned to the bottom set, and in my first term I came bottom in the class.

My father took me aside in the Christmas holidays, and with no ill intent showed me the invoice for my school fees. I remember him saying that I really needed to do a bit better. The next term I came third in my class, and then first in the summer term, and moved into Class 2A the following year.

How did I manage it? I decided to take a little extra time to at least try to do everything well, regardless of subject, sport or club. I wasn't really exceptional at anything, although I could draw and paint, and quite liked the feeling that came with responsibility. So I became Form Head, Mail Boy, Petty Officer, Chief and Deputy Head of School. Despite all my efforts, I still didn't attain the A level grades I needed for university, but I did eventually become a Chartered Engineer in 1993.

In your career I believe there are five big opportunities – call them your 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace, if you like. You will learn to recognise them when they present themselves. Mine produced senior management posts in global investment banks, and invited keynote speaker requests at international conferences. They led to world travel and European industry recognition awards. If I can do it, then any one of you can - perhaps similarly well, or even better.

Now I'm retired, but I don't believe I ever played my Ace!



ANDY REDWOOD (ST VINCENT, 1979)
HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT, RHSA

A reflection on the past year



From left to right:
Felix Arp-Petersen (Drake, 2021),
Maddie Fitch (Raleigh, 2021),
Jessie Jordan (Hood, 2021) and
Jason Sims (St Vincent, 2021)

2021 was an incredibly strange year, to say the least. We emerged from the first lockdown with uncertainty as to what the school year would be like, and whether we would have the traditional Nelson experience.

At the start of September it felt like everything was almost back to normal, having spent so much time away from friends. It was as if I had never truly left RHS for the five long months of online learning and strict lockdown rules. I was living abroad for the first lockdown, so it was particularly difficult to keep up to date with the ceaseless number of lessons on MSTeams.

By early December, things started getting serious again, with the introduction of mask wearing around School and our first COVID case. Although we were still part of the RHS 'bubble', it seemed that the world around us was getting progressively worse as we were continuing our busy day-to-day lives. It might sound slightly melodramatic to phrase it this way, however, the reality of the past year is that it was scary studying for our A levels in the midst of a pandemic that still seems like it won't end.

Then, in January, a few days before we were due to return, we were informed that not only would we not be returning to school, but we would also not be completing our exams in the way we had anticipated. The level of uncertainty meant that I was afraid I had already completed my RHS experience.

Thankfully, on my 18th birthday, I was told I would be returning to RHS in two weeks' time, and I would at last be able to be with my friends again. The lockdown meant that although I was only at school in person for two-thirds of the year, it felt like I was now able to make the most of the rest of my time left. I was able to appreciate the sunsets, the walks with friends, and to some extent the school food, so much more. I was more aware of how lucky I was to be with friends every day and I took part in more activities than I had before, because I wasn't sure how much time we had left together.

Unfortunately, I was one of the few who had to self-isolate in the last 10 days of the summer term due to being in close contact with a positive case. It seemed so unfair that after such a tough year I would miss Trafalgar, Divisions with my father as Inspecting Officer, and the final Sunset Ceremony.

However, I was still able to make the most of my last week (within the COVID restrictions) by spending my 30 minutes outside appreciating the views and talking to my friends, who also isolated with me, as well as chatting to the rest of my friends through my window. My time was up, but it was made so much more special because I relished every one of my last few hours as a student at RHS.

So, to reflect on the past year, even though it was incredibly difficult being at School through two lockdowns and strict COVID restrictions, I was still able to enjoy the traditional Nelson House experience. I have so many memories with my friends, which I will carry with me through my life. I have come to learn that this is what makes the Nelson experience so special and unique.

WRITTEN BY JESSIE JORDAN (HOOD, 2021)
ON BEHALF OF THE 2021 HEADS OF SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW



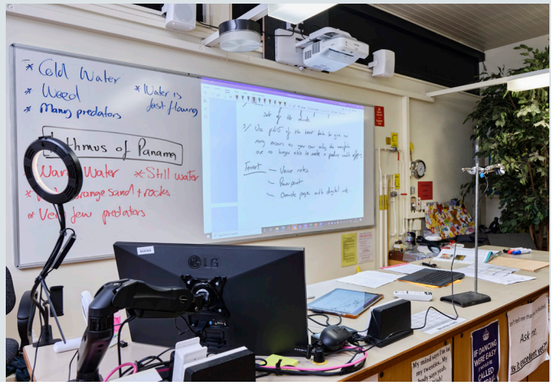
NEW TERM, NEW NORMAL

WHEN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR STARTED, STAFF WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK TO ENSURE ROBUST COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES WERE PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED.

To reduce risk for the whole school community all Houses became year-group bubbles. After many months apart, the return to the classroom was a real relief for teachers, pupils and parents alike. However, they still faced huge challenges to balance teaching and wellbeing for everyone in and out of the classroom.

We made changes to the academic timetable to reduce movement around the school site, but otherwise we managed to deliver the curriculum as normal. With some pupils still remote learning, each member of staff had to teach pupils who were physically present at the same time as those accessing the lesson remotely. Our technology ensured that a pupil working remotely could see the teacher, white board, textbooks and tasks, and was able to ask questions within the live lesson being delivered. This was as close as we could get them to being in the room with their teacher.





EVENTS GO ONLINE

We were absolutely thrilled to have Major General (Retired) Gary Deakin CBE (Collingwood, 1984), Deputy Chief of Staff, NATO, join us for our only virtual Fireside Chat of the academic year.



Gary's discussion explored four major themes: self, teams, networks and resilience. The talk covered many moving and fun anecdotes from meeting with the great and the good (including HM The Queen and former US President Barack Obama) to his pride in raising the Rainbow Flag in Scotland for Stonewall (now an annual tradition at all bases), to tales of literally having his life in the hands of fellow RHS alumni serving around the world.



These themes gave pupils some great take-away phrases and concepts, which included: continued development means 'learn not learned'; develop critical thinking skills (learned from his Housemaster Matthew March and English teacher Bob Good); value the opinion of others because 'ideas have no rank'; properly balance the three legs of the stool of life: self, career and family; increase the talent pool by putting yourself out there to stand up for others including around diversity and LGBT rights; seek help when you need it and face your weaknesses.

THE MAN WHO SAW IT COMING

On Thursday 12 February former pupil Bob Clark (Raleigh, 1968) gave a fascinating online talk to our RHS community, about how working in business continuity led him to write a book in 2016, entitled *Business Continuity and the Pandemic Threat: Potentially the biggest survival challenge facing organisations.*



As he told us, in 2020 there was a significant step-change in how seriously the business market audience received his book – he was now a man very much in demand.

Bob has just completed a companion book *Business Continuity and the Pandemic Threat: Living with COVID-19* whilst preparing for the next pandemic. He presented a copy to the Library when he visited the School in September 2021. The book includes a case study of RHS, illustrating how well the School responded, by launching our remote teaching to all 750 pupils across 38 countries. Although he would describe himself as a business continuity consultant, trainer, lecturer and author, he can certainly add pandemic expert to the list!





A FOND FAREWELL TO SIMON

In December 2020 we said goodbye to our Development Director, Simon Marsh, who made a huge positive impact in his three years at RHS. He always had a way with words, and was instrumental in strengthening our sense of community creating #PartofRHS. So it feels fitting to include this short paragraph he wrote, which sums up what being #PartofRHS means to us all:

"Looking back at 2020/21, we at RHS are immensely proud of the way in which our School pulled together to overcome the difficulties posed by the Coronavirus pandemic and resulting lockdowns. Our sense of fellowship was as strong as ever, despite the many miles between us. What's more, the choices made by our staff, pupils, parents and alumni brought help and support to the wider school community and beyond at an incredibly challenging time."

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Remembrance was certainly different without the crowds of alumni who usually attend the weekend. No rugby or hockey. No drinks in The Shed followed by curry. No visitors gathering to watch Divisions, no RHSA Squad and no packed Chapel for the two Services of Remembrance. Not to be deterred, the RHS Alumni Office simply did it differently this year.



On Saturday night (7 November), we held the first ever 'live' RHSA Victory Arms Quiz, starting with a film showing everyone what the school felt like without any alumni this year. Led by Katie Gould (Blake, 2010), Simon Marsh and Lucy Pembroke attempted to do a march past. Sadly both Simon and Lucy failed dreadfully, however Katie did the RHSA proud – marching is certainly a skill that never seems to leave you. Monty Callow also made a cameo appearance in his usual spot, behind The Shed Bar. The quiz had three rounds: Famous Faces, Random RHS Facts, and Historical Buildings and Places.



Sunday (8 November) was more subdued, with the Remembrance Service broadcast at 19:00. Thanks to Alex Kemsley (Howe, 2009) Head of Classics for the Reading, Hannah Ravenhall (Hood, 2011) Learning Support teacher for presenting the wreath and Katie Gould (Blake, 2010) Alumni Relations Executive for carrying the RHSA Banner. Victor Burgess (Howe, 1934) made a special appearance reading a prayer. Now aged 100, he is one of only a few former pupils still alive who attended both Greenwich and Holbrook. Tom Pratt (St Vincent, 1998), now a parent at RHS, and Rebecca Winward (Cornwallis, 1997), a prospective parent, laid the wreaths at the cross in the RHSA Memorial Garden.





REACH FOR THE STARS

On Thursday 11 March, we were delighted to have Ian Annett (Collingwood, 1984), Deputy CEO of the UK Space Agency, talk about his journey from RHS to his successful career in the Royal Navy - reaching the rank of Commodore, becoming Head of Information Warfare and Chief Information Officer for the entire Royal Navy. Ian has always had a passion for space, even at RHS, and landing his current job was (and is) his dream job, as he gets to talk about space all the time.

Ian explained that the UK space industry is a growing sector, and currently has over 40,000 employees and a 5.1% share of the global space economy. The areas of focus within the sector are more varied and numerous than you might initially think, including weather and climate, science and exploration, global positioning and communications, earth observation, deep space observation, exploration and human endeavour. Ian's key message was 'science is not just for scientists!' Those with an interest in engineering, business, law, geography and philosophy are very welcome indeed!



PRIZE-GIVING 2021

To end the school year Major General (Retired) Gary Deakin CBE (Collingwood, 1984) returned to RHS as Guest of Honour. This time in person, and in fact on his last day before his retirement from the Army. His adjutant was Lt Henry Nicholls (St Vincent, 2016) – and so the circle continues.



CORPS OF DRUMS PERFORMANCE

The entire School were full of excitement as four of the Corps of Drums accompanied former pupil Jon Courtenay (Blake, 1991) when he took to the stage at the Royal Variety Performance, as part of his prize for winning Britain's Got Talent 2020. The boys aged 15-18 had worked for years to earn their highly sought-after positions in the Corps. They were in great company with other performers including Gary Barlow, Mel C and Celeste, at the Blackpool Opera House event.



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

On Wednesday 23 June 2021, the Alumni Office was delighted to broadcast a live online lecture from RHS alumna Eva Humphries DipION mBANT CNHC, who talked us through how food affects your mood. Eva is a fully qualified nutritional therapist, and as she says on her website, the letters after her name are thanks to years of study and lots of nerdy science.

Did you know that if you are suffering from constant fatigue, bouts of anxiety, low mood or have trouble focusing, it could just be that you are dehydrated? And who knew that the Vitamin D our bodies generate from exposure to sunlight can only be created from 12pm - 2pm, March to October? Eva's talk was highly informative, and absolutely fascinating.

Never Give Up
From paralysis to a half marathon



WHEN BRIAN WHEELER (HOWE, 1990) LEFT RHS, HE HAD A DREAM TO BECOME A PILOT. AFTER ACHIEVING HIS PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENCE, AND APPLYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO BRITISH AIRWAYS, THE NAVY, AND THE RAF, HE EVENTUALLY MOVED INTO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, FIRST FOR THE RAF, AND LATER WORKING FOR THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE (NATS). RESILIENCE HAD LED TO SUCCESS. HOWEVER, 28 YEARS AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL, BRIAN FACED HIS TOUGHEST CHALLENGE YET. HERE HE TELLS US HIS STORY...

Friday 4 May 2018 was just a normal day for most, but for me it was the day everything changed. I had suffered from back problems most of my adult life, and I had undergone surgery to decompress a disc in my lumbar spine back in 1998, but still I couldn't have anticipated what was to happen.

It started the week before, on Saturday 28 April whilst out and about. My back suddenly went into spasm, locking all the muscles and making it difficult to move. After a very stressful 30 minutes of trying to get into my car, I got home and telephoned 111. I saw a doctor that evening, who prescribed painkillers and muscle relaxants, sending me on my way.

Things seemed to be improving, but on the night of Thursday 10 May, I started to get pain down the back of both my legs. The pain intensified over the next few hours and at 0400 an ambulance arrived. I was taken to Portsmouth Queen Alexandra A&E, and during an MRI scan lost all feeling from the waist down. The hospital staff informed me that I was now under the care of a spinal surgeon at Southampton, who would perform emergency surgery that night.

> "It was a remarkable feeling, almost unbelievable. In doing the impossible, I had raised nearly £9,000 for a charity that is close to my heart – Aerobility."

I was transferred to Southampton and diagnosed with a very rare condition called Cauda Equina Syndrome, the odds of which were 1:100,000. Following surgery, I was told that a disc had penetrated my spinal cord, rendering me paralysed. The surgeon confirmed he had been able to remove the disc fragments but there was a strong chance that I would never walk again. Those words shook me to the core, and the only response I could muster was "Well, we'll see."

After 10 days I was transferred to the Specialist Spinal Unit at Salisbury Hospital. This was to be my home for the next three months. I had regular physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, and access to the patient gymnasium. I would spend every waking moment trying to get my muscles to work. It wasn't easy – but just a flicker in the toes would confirm a pathway from the brain.

And then things took a turn for the worse. I had severe pain in my right side which I thought was just muscular injury from using the weights in my wheelchair. It turned out I had multiple embolisms in my lung, which could have killed me had they remained undiscovered for much longer.

An impossible challenge?

On 6 August 2018, determined to leave upright, I struggled out of the Spinal Unit on crutches. I was still broken; I realised how much hard work it was going to take to walk unaided. The next seven weeks I spent as an inpatient with a specialist neurological physiotherapy team at a centre which treats injured jockeys. I went through some of the most intense (and frustrating) work I have ever undertaken, but without it I would not be where I am today.

Once home, for the next 18 months I continued weekly physiotherapy and sports therapy sessions. Then 2020 saw two further surgeries, one to insert a titanium cage into my spine, and the second, more screws for additional support. It was whilst recovering from that second surgery that I decided to challenge myself.

In my mind, the perfect antidote to being told I would never walk again was to run a half marathon. Many people thought this would be impossible; to be honest I had my doubts at times. But with the support of a sports physiotherapist and a running coach, I started to learn to run. I started at 400 metres, building up the distance slowly. My biggest issue was that when I reached a mile, I would develop excruciating pain due to the neurological deficit afflicting my battered body. I was helped to push through using a number of strategies, and on Sunday 5 September 2021 I took my place on the start line at the Southampton Half Marathon.

Come too far

It was a hot day, too hot for running, but I wasn't going to let that stop me. I had experienced an 'episode' with my left leg the week before which had altered my neurology and left me with painful sciatica. But I had come too far to pull out of the race. So, fuelled with painkillers, I began. I crossed the finish line in 2 hours and 24 minutes. It was a remarkable feeling, almost unbelievable. In doing the impossible, I had raised nearly £9,000 for a charity that is really close to my heart – Aerobility.

I think if there's any advice I can give to my fellow RHS alumni, whatever their age, is that you must never give up. I suffered numerous knock-backs in my early career, but perseverance still led to success, the same grit and determination led me to overcome some pretty huge physical challenges. My motto is 'fail to succeed', because every set-back I have encountered has pushed me on to greater things. ■

AEROBILITY IS A CHARITY WHICH ENABLES PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY TO EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM THAT FLIGHT BRINGS. BRIAN CAME ACROSS AEROBILITY AS PART OF HIS REHABILITATION, AND IS NOW LEARNING TO FLY AGAIN. HE BECAME A TRUSTEE OF THE CHARITY IN 2019. TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE CHARITY'S WORK GO TO WWW.AEROBILITY.COM.



Opposite page: Race day!

Above: After one of Brian's many operations

Below: A proud moment, becoming a Trustee of Aerobility



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 meet alumni of seven years and find out where they are at 25 years old. Today ***Lucy Pembroke*** *chats to* ***Lizzy Blackett*** *(Howe, 2014)*

THE ALUMNI OFFICE HAS RECENTLY NOTICED THAT LOTS OF YOUNG ALUMNI ARE ENTERING THE TEACHING PROFESSION. LUCY PEMBROKE DECIDED TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR RHS@25s TO FIND OUT WHAT TEMPTED HER TO TAKE THAT CAREER PATH.

Both Lizzy Blackett's parents are teachers. So, I start by asking Lizzy whether she was inspired by her parents? "Oh no!" she answers. "I had spent my entire life living on a school campus, so I was hugely put off, and pretty adamant that I didn't want to become a teacher!"

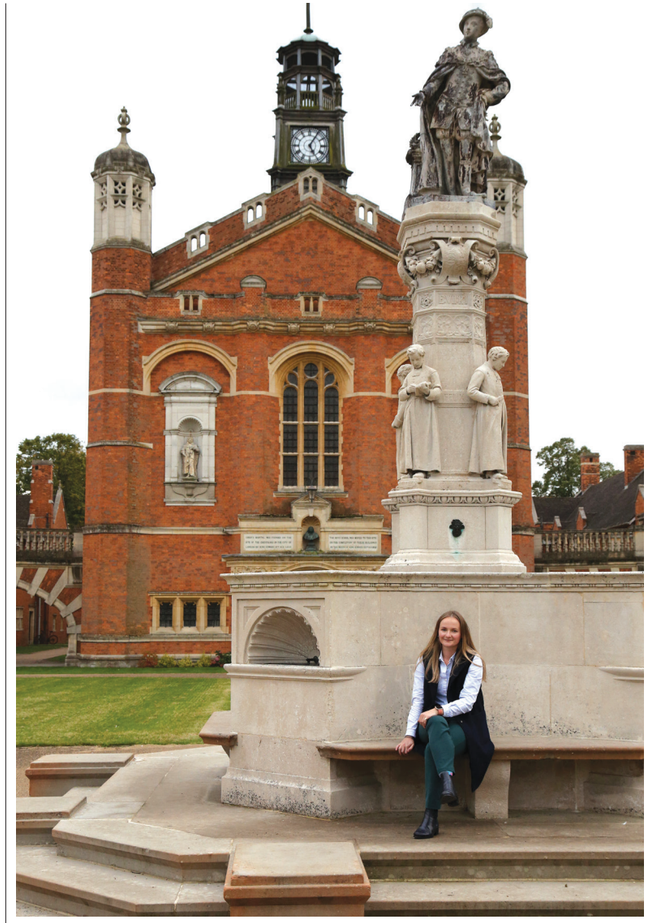
In her final year at RHS, Lizzy was still unsure what to study. So, having already planned her gap year, she withdrew from UCAS, knowing she could apply the following year. Whilst on her gap year she started researching different university courses and came across a Liberal Arts degree at Royal Holloway. "I always like to dip my toe into something different," she says. "Liberal Arts offers all sorts of modules including history, literature, music and philosophy, which seemed like a great fit for me, and a great way to maintain the breadth of education I had received at RHS."

Surprisingly, whilst studying at Royal Holloway, Lizzy realised how much she missed the school environment. "So in my final year I decided to find out if teaching was a career path I wanted to follow," she explains. She secured a one-year postgraduate position in the English Department at Bradfield College, Berkshire, which enabled her to see if she was fully invested. "I found I just loved being in the classroom," Lizzy continues.

The next step was studying for her PGCE, but things didn't quite go as expected. "It's amazing how your path can change. I had planned to go back to university, but the department needed maternity cover, and I was asked if I would like to stay with the chance to complete my PGCE at the same time. I was delighted."

Studying for the PGCE as well as teaching is a real juggling act, Lizzy explains. "Learning to balance lesson planning, the classroom and marking is difficult, and can be overwhelming. But that is the nature of the first two years of working as a teacher," she says. "After that, life becomes much simpler."

Lizzy is now thrilled to be working at Christ's Hospital in Horsham, Surrey. "I was so excited to be joining CH, there are just so many similarities to the ethos of RHS."



Above: Lizzy at Christ's Hospital School, where she works

So, onto the important questions.

Who was her favourite teacher at RHS? "I really enjoyed English at school," Lizzy says. "Mr Madge and Mr Hodson were fantastic teachers, and I think about them more now I am a teacher myself. Everyone remembers a teacher who was encouraging and instilled the confidence and drive to do your best. I want to do the same for my students."

What does she like about teaching? "Teaching is exciting, dynamic and challenging. I love the interaction with people all day," she replies.

The last question I ask everyone who is interviewed for RHS@25: is teaching what you thought you would be doing at 25? "I loved public speaking at RHS and thought about going into journalism with the intention of becoming a news correspondent," Lizzy recalls. "I also investigated law, but simply didn't feel passionately enough about it as a career. So, to answer your question, it turns out the answer had been right in front of me, during all those years at RHS!" ■

Ian Annett: Space is not just for scientists!



We often encourage our students to reach for the stars when they launch their careers – and some alumni have taken this very literally! ***Ian Annett*** *(Collingwood, 1984), Deputy CEO of the UK Space Agency, took time to speak to* ***Lucy Pembroke*** *about his career, and the opportunities available in this fascinating industry.*

CAN YOU BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR CAREER PATH?

I joined the Royal Navy straight from RHS, training as a Weapon Engineer Officer, completing my degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, followed by a Masters in Guided Weapons Systems. On reaching the rank of Commodore, I became Head of Information Warfare and Chief Information Officer for the entire Royal Navy. I left in early 2021, and secured my dream job: Deputy CEO of the UK Space Agency.

WHY IS THE SPACE INDUSTRY IMPORTANT?

The UK space industry is one of our fastest-growing sectors, having trebled in size in the last ten years. Worth £16.5bn a year to our economy, it currently employs 45,000 people. Its industrial, scientific and academic elements are supported by the UK Space Agency, whose vision is to 'inspire and lead the UK in space, to benefit our planet and its people'. Our industry looks at how we grow our economy, protect our planet and improve our lives on earth, as well as supporting exciting exploration missions beyond our world, such as returning to the moon, or recovering samples from Mars.

HOW IS SPACE GOVERNED?

There are about 100 nations with satellites in space, and the United Nations plays a significant role through the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). It is responsible for coordinating the use of the global radio spectrum, assigning satellite orbits, improving communication for the developing world, and establishing worldwide standards.

HOW MANY SATELLITES ARE IN SPACE?

It is hard to believe that the first satellite, Sputnik, was launched only 64 years ago. Today there are over 6,500 satellites, but, incredibly, only 47% of the satellites are active. Space junk is a huge problem. The damage caused if a tiny piece hits a satellite – or indeed the International Space Station – at 17,000 miles per hour, well you can imagine. One of the areas that companies, supported by governments, are looking into, is how to clear it.

> The space sector needs people from many different disciplines, from aerodynamicists to data scientists, HR to PR, space lawyers to educators, and they all contribute the UK's leadership in the space sector.



IAN ANNETT *(COLLINGWOOD, 1984)*, DEPUTY CEO OF THE UK SPACE AGENCY

WHO ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SPACE INDUSTRY?

No longer is space exploration the preserve of government alone. In recent years it has become more of a private enterprise, with companies such as Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit and Virgin Galactic, Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, and SpaceX, owned by Elon Musk. He is currently working on delivering a mega constellation of up to 40,000 satellites to enable global broadband from space.

I think we are seeing a change in the market, too, as the cost of access to space reduces and building small satellites becomes increasingly affordable.

The future of the space economy will no longer be dominated by large companies. Smaller, more agile companies with an increasing focus on commercial opportunities are coming to the market – they are lean, adaptable, and challenge the historical approach to the use of space and how it can benefit the planet and its people.

WHAT ARE THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPACE SECTOR?

The industry is an attractive proposition. The pay is higher than many sectors and it returns over 2.5 times that of the UK's average labour productivity. The space sector needs people from many different disciplines, from aerodynamicists to data scientists, HR to PR, space lawyers to educators, and they all contribute the UK's leadership in the space sector. Talking of law, one of the most important areas is space law and regulation, where we need people with the knowledge and skills to consider subjects as complex as mining on the moon and asteroids, as well as the operation of mega constellations and human space travel.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THEIR CAREER?

Don't plan your future too much. And most importantly, find something you enjoy – you will then inevitably be good at it! ■

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE ON A SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR AND HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET AND THE PURSUIT OF EXPLORATION? SEARCH 'UK SPACE INDUSTRY' AND START YOUR JOURNEY INTO SPACE.





Always ‘Part of RHS’

In 2020 RHS lost two alumni too soon, ***Will Christmas*** *(Collingwood, 2019) and* ***Tom Miller*** *(Raleigh, 2015). To honour the boys, their friends and families came together to celebrate their lives through sport.*









AN INCREDIBLE £75,000 HAS BEEN RAISED IN MEMORY OF WILL AND TOM. SUPPORTING THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL CENTENNIAL FUND, ODDBALLS AND THE NOTTINGHAM QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTRE ADULT INTENSIVE CARE UNIT. IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO ANY OF THESE CHARITIES, PLEASE EMAIL LPEMBROKE@ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG.



























PIGEON POST

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



NEW BUSINESS SUCCESS FOR EMILY

Emily (Eski) Shelley-Keating (Hood, 2011) wrote to tell us that after ten years of working her socks off in the beauty industry, on 1 February 2020 she opened her beauty salon, British Beauty Suffolk. She says she was already apprehensive due to the fact that the salon is situated above her parents' pub (what's not to like, it's a bar with a spa?!). However, then COVID hit and that put extra pressure on. "Fast forward to today and I can't quite believe I have gone from just me to three of us in the salon, so the business not only survived COVID but is growing rapidly," she says. "I owe my determination, drive and dedication to RHS and can't thank the School enough for setting me up with all the tools I needed to make my little dream a reality."

STAND EASY, NICK



We are sad to report that Nick Hancock (Cornwallis, 1963) passed away in July this year at his home in Sydney, Australia. He was an avid follower of School matters and wished to be included in the Gidge. His three sisters wrote this tribute for us:

"Nick's life cannot be said to have been conventional, as in the best Schopenhauerian tradition, the moment he achieved a goal he immediately decided that this had never been his goal and he sought out something new. After leaving Holbrook he joined the British High Commission in Ghana. Following two happy years there, he returned to the UK, eventually deciding that his natural gift was in sales. He dedicated most of his working life to this, eventually moving to Australia where he sold vast quantities of tea tree oil. He then became involved in the charitable sector, along with his wife Janet, working as a social activities manager for the elderly. Given his outgoing personality and huge repertoire of jokes and anecdotes, the clients adored him; an entirely mutual sentiment. Nick developed a gift for writing, producing many small histories and a prolific amount of poetry. He died following a long and painful illness, borne with the greatest stoicism and dignity, leaving his wife, four children, two stepchildren and two grandchildren – and thinking that perhaps he should have gone to Dartmouth, after all!"



ON THE BIG SCREEN

Terence Booth (Cornwallis, 1967) wrote to tell us of his latest exploits on screen. "I've just finished filming my role in a gaming video for Xbox called *As Dusk Falls*, which is due out at the beginning of 2022. I also had a tiny role in an upcoming film which will be called either *The Fantastic Flitcrofts* or *The Phantom Of The Open*, whichever they decide on. I don't report this to blow my own trumpet but to share my disbelief that at 72 I'm still employable!"

KEEP ON RUNNING

Georgina (Georgie) Watson (Anson, 2013) was meant to run the London Marathon back in April 2020 – but just as she reached her peak, it was cancelled. Along with an operation which meant she was not able to run for many months, she was back to square one. However, in January 2021 Georgie moved to London. "I very naively set myself the challenge of running the entire London Underground Tube map from stop to stop, which proved somewhat larger than I first expected!" she explains. She also decided to set herself the additional challenge of swimming a marathon distance over the eight weeks in the lead up to the rescheduled marathon. We are pleased to say that she managed to complete these mammoth tasks – well done!



A MODBURY CURIOSITY

George Rosevear (Nelson, 1965) wrote to tell us that whilst living in Bigbury, Devon, he worked in nearby Modbury. Also living in Modbury was Squadron Leader Ray Jones (Rtd) who was a 111 Lightning pilot based at RAF Wattisham in 1963, whom George met there while he was at RHS. Sir James Burnell-Nugent KCB, CBE, ADC former Second Sea Lord was born and brought up in Stutton House, down the road from RHS. Norman Kirtley CPO Cook RN (Rtd) was at HMS Ganges for training 1962 to 1963; It's a small world.

GIVING SOMETHING BACK

David Marsh CBE (Hood, 1975) dropped us a line to bring us up to date on what he's been doing over the years. "Apparently the three stages of life are 'childhood, adulthood and the senior years'. I owe everything to RHS for setting up the second phase, and I am now gently easing into the latter. It's fun; life on your terms.



"My working life covered 36 years in the Royal Navy in the days when we travelled the world, played endless sport and enjoyed sundowners watching the sunset somewhere warm. Somehow I made it to Commodore and even went to the Palace. Then I spent five fascinating years with BAE Systems, culminating in leading the preparations at Portsmouth Naval Base for the new aircraft carriers. Retirement before age 60 achieved, I am now a magistrate in south-east Hampshire, a school governor at my local secondary school and a director of the Forces Pension Society. My 'senior years' have given me the opportunity to give something back. During lockdown I completed a Master's degree in Strategic Leadership, enjoyed the allotment, played tennis and golf, and tried to tame our now-one-year-old Border Terrier named Archie."

REMEMBERING RHS IN WARTIME

Hylton Dawn (Anson, 1943) joined RHS from feeder school, Swanley. "The staff were generally feared, distant figures," he remembers. "Being addressed individually usually spelt an order, or trouble. Bullying appeared to be condoned."

Now, aged 93, Hylton still recalls a lot of the day-to-day routine at wartime RHS. "My knee pain today reminds me of countless wetshirts, lined with 38 others, polishing the floor in step - left right left – sporadically beaten hard with a stonicky (rod formed from a twisted wet bath towel). Yet after Swanley, RHS seemed like a holiday camp. Wartime life was austere with rationing, blackouts, air-raids, the chapel windows being blown out, and fathers and old boys killed. We went home three times a year, with homeless boys billeted locally.

"I was discharged suddenly – 'failed for sea' due to scarlet fever complications. Civilian life seemed undisciplined, scruffy and disorganised. Years of work and night school led to various jobs, culminating in a role in aero-acoustics at Rolls Royce. I worked on projects from The Flying Bedstead, through to jumbo-jets and Concorde. I led the Concorde Jet Noise Research Group, patented two forms of silencer for supersonic jets, and negotiated Concorde into New York. I retired in 1990 and am now enjoying the childhood I never had."

BRINGING NEW IDEAS TO MARKET

Steve Thornhill (Hawke, 1983) wrote to us to tell us about his entrepreneurial activities. "My day job is running a consultancy, helping business owners to grow, acquire or sell, and that is great. But what I enjoy most is starting my own businesses, and in 2021 I have launched four such ventures, all quite different and all extremely exciting.

"The first is a sustainable product, called Street Food Box, a re-useable food box, which is flat box for carrying and unfolds for use. Use it, wash it, and use it tomorrow. Then a Nordic-inspired sodium-reduced range of seasonings, Suolo – the first batch of products are in manufacture as we speak. The third is a range of air purification devices, sold under the brand name IonKlean. And the final one is distribution of a range of eco-friendly disinfectants called ShieldMe."



2021 was a busy year indeed for Steve! He tells us he'd love to chat through his experiences with anyone with entrepreneurial aspirations.

A NOVEL IDEA



'I've got an idea!' is a phrase that invariably brings the response 'Oh no!' from his wife, Anthony (Tony) Turner (Howe, 1980) tells us.

"The germ of my idea for a book grew over a few years, often at the most inconvenient times, which made me realise the importance of always carrying a notebook and pen with me. If I'm going to do this thing, I'd pondered, it's best to do some research. So I turned to Maggie Hamand's *Creative Writing for Dummies*, a godsend at £12.99, and much better than the £3,000 you could spend on a Masters. The result was a manuscript called *Lendon: The Forgotten War*.

"Next came the trials and tribulations of getting it published. Thankfully, my wife prepared me for the disappointment of rejection and warned me of the perils of 'vanity' publishing companies. Instead I turned to Amazon KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) through which, in 2016, I self-published my first novel. The sequel followed in 2020, *Lendon: The Art of War*, plus I've published several other non-fiction publications, all of which were at nil cost and brought in 60% royalties."

FIVE DECADES OF FRIENDSHIP

Paul Truman (Hood, 1979) kindly sent in this image of his brother Philip Truman (Hood, 1982), Nick May (Anson, 1980), and Bill Mason (Anson, 1979) at The Lifeboat Inn on Hayling island, when they met up just after lockdown.



CHARLIE BECOMES HIS OWN BOSS



Charlie Gibson (St Vincent, 2014) wrote to tell us what he has been up to over the last couple of years. "During the early stages of COVID it seemed that nobody was hiring. As someone who needs to be busy, the only logical option seemed to be to start a company!" he recalls. "One year on we have a growing business – Bow and Arrow Consulting – focusing on social media consultancy and management, introductory broking, and providing an outsourced sales function for startups and small businesses – it's great! I have made some interesting decisions over the last few years, but this one definitely takes the crown. The plan was always to start a company, however it was never the plan to do it THIS early in my career. Looking back over the last year I am so glad I did, and I am loving every moment."

A RALEIGH BOY RECALLS

John Haywood (Raleigh, 1960) joined RHS – under the tutelage of Mr Brown – with both apprehension and excitement, awed by the Queen Anne buildings. The autumn term meant rugby and the under 13 side; John remembers they were not very good, but enthusiastic, and managed by Mr Peat. RHS cultivated his love of sport, particularly rugby and cricket, which has stayed with him over the years. John tells us he remembers the autumn term of 1957, when Asian Flu filled the infirmary – his first experience of isolating, as the Houses were evacuated!

After leaving RHS, John began a career in marketing, joining Ecolab Inc. where he stayed for 16 years, becoming Vice President of Industrial Marketing Europe, before joining Laporte PLC as CEO Industrial SBU. In 2000 he began a business with his son, purifying methane gas from waste sites for green energy production.

Retiring in 2014, John trained as a private pilot, which led to some interesting journeys to the Continent, the Channel Islands and Scottish Islands. He has also enjoyed many holidays in his motor home with his wife of 58 years, Sonia. Golf and keep fit, along with his large family living close by, ensures both he and Sonia are always fully occupied.

KIA ORA KOUTOU



Andrew (Andy) Finch (St Vincent, 1980) studied Civil and Structural Engineering at Sheffield University, emerging with a BEng (Hons) degree. Subsequently he was employed by several local authorities and government agencies across the UK, working on municipal and highway engineering projects. In 2008, seeking fresh opportunity, he emigrated to New Zealand with his family, building a successful career in engineering in both the public and private sectors. He now has a role as a General Manager at Far North District Council, where he is responsible for roads, water services, and municipal facilities.

Andy used the opportunity of the New Zealand lockdown to take up long-distance running, completing numerous half marathons, two marathons last year, and two more planned for this year. He tells us he is now is the proud owner of a significant collection of worn-out running shoes!

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

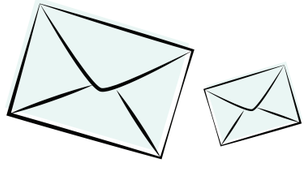
A CAREER AS AN ENGINEER

Born in 1945, Barry Campbell (Anson, 1961) joined RHS in 1957, his two Housemasters were Mr Worswick and Mr Cook. He tells us he excelled at most sports, playing football and rugby, and taking part in the Eastern Counties competitions. He was always in the upper stream, and his ambition was to join the Royal Navy as an officer and emulate his father. Unfortunately, an eyesight test meant he could only join as a writer at HMS St Vincent. He therefore decided to do an engineering apprenticeship, with a view to joining the Navy as a Petty Officer or try to get a short-term commission.



He did neither, he tells us. Married at 22, Barry joined the Merchant Navy as an engineer. He left after a number of years and went into the motor trade, starting Denbar Motors, Southsea, in 1977 – a business now run by his brother.

Barry tells us he is still reasonably fit; he has been married three times, losing his third wife of over 40 years in 2017. Together they have four children and nine grandchildren. "I would like to send my best wishes to all RHS pupils past and present, and I'm proud to have been a part of RHS," he says.



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

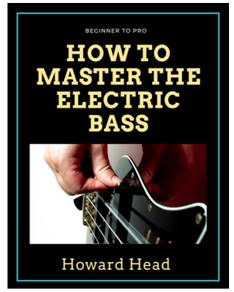
Philip Henderson (Hood, 1963) wrote to update us on his latest works. "As a composer living in Haworth on the Yorkshire moors, within a mere stone's throw of the Brontë parsonage, I guess it was only a matter of time before Emily, Anne and Charlotte Brontë would inspire me. The inspiration sprang from a portrait painted by the girls' brother, Branwell. The thing that intrigued me most about the portrait was that though Branwell had at first included himself posing with his sisters, he then decided to erase his image from the painting which left a hauntingly strange column of light where once he had stood. Thus inspiration flowed, which has resulted in my second string quartet, *Portrait – The Brontë Quartet*, being published.

"I like to think that Mr Ship, 'Bandy', and Mr Davis, Head of Music, would have given it the thumbs up. Both were a huge inspiration to me!"



ALL ABOUT THE BASS

"Lockdown wasn't the kindest of times for a newly self-employed musician!" Howard Head (Raleigh, 2017) explains. "But I spent the time wisely writing a tuition book, called *How to Master The Electric Bass*, which helps ensure that beginners gets a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build as they learn.



In July 2021 there was nothing much on the horizon, however Howard is now a Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) Executive during the week, and plays two to three weddings over weekends, he is also performing at The Isle of Wight Festival 2022. So things are looking up!





ONE OF CHURCHILL'S OWN

In 2021 Toby Seabright (Collingwood, 2012) was commissioned into the Queen's Royal Hussars, after serving as an Army musician. "I credit Jonathan Pooley and RHS for developing Toby's strength of character, which has served him so well at Sandhust," his father Tony tells us.

The photograph above is of Toby at the end of his final exercise, when the cadets are allowed to briefly wear regimental head dress. Toby joins a large number of alumni who have recently passed out from Sandhust in the last 18 months.

NAVIGATING HIS OWN SUCCESS

Douglas Colton (Anson, 1955) played rugby and swam for the School. "I was not a bright student," he wrote to tell us. "But I completed a five-year shipwright's apprenticeship at Chatham Dockyard before being offered a position at the Auckland Dockyard, New Zealand, as a submarine ventilation specialist."



He later returned to the UK as a design draughtsman for a building company, and achieved a Business Management qualification at Woolwich Polytechnic, becoming a Fellow of the British Institute of Management. Douglas then joined a quantity surveying practice as an M&E specialist, eventually running the engineering section of a large practice.

"I also helped advise on course material for Nottingham University," he adds. "And in a small way I was responsible for the new profession of 'M&E quantity surveyor'." He worked as a consultant for a further 12 years before fully retiring. Douglas is now a restoration volunteer at Nutley Windmill, which takes him back to his woodworking roots. "None of this would have been achieved without the solid grounding RHS gave me," he says.

HAWKE BOYS TEE OFF



Peter McKenzie (Hawke, 1958) let us know about the Annual Hawke Golf Challenge, which was held this year in June at the Mid Sussex Golf Club, near Ditchling, in Sussex. The weather was great, the banter amusing (lots of shared memories about RHS and their days in Hawke), and the golf was... enjoyable! This year's Challenge was won by Bob Allaway (Hawke, 1960), seen in the picture receiving the trophy from Peter, who was last year's winner. In the picture, from the left, Harry Allaway (Hawke, 1958), Alan Deadman (Hawke, 1958), Peter McKenzie, Bob Allaway, Jim Wright (Hawke, 1958) and Arthur Merchant (Hawke, 1963).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Trent Holmes (Hawke, 1974) wrote to us to tell us about an RHSA project he's been working on while stuck at home during lockdown. "Late in 2020 I was persuaded by Mark Lucas (St Vincent, 1974) to use my past work experience to see if it would be possible to create a map of the 'Class of 67', showing where we had all wound up.

Trent tells us that after an initial trial, the project was widened to all former pupils. The result is a viewable map on the internet showing the location of over 170 former pupils who started at Holbrook from the 1940s -1980s residing in 24 countries. He would like to encourage others to join in, however, in order to safeguard individual information, the map is password protected.

If you would like to view the map and/or have your details included, please contact Trent at **trent.t.holmes@gmail.com** or Mark Lucas at **mlucas@royalhospitalschool.org**.



BANKING ON SUCCESS AFTER RHS

John Hunter (Hood, 1981) wrote and told us about his family's long association with RHS: his father, Derek Hunter (Hood, 1955); his brother, Steven Hunter (Hood, 1978); and his son, Paul Hunter (Drake/Raleigh, 2011). "There is no doubt that whilst I was not the most academic or best-behaved pupil, what I learnt at RHS has stood me in good stead through a varied career," he says.

"I left school before the end of my last term to be the tea boy at NatWest in Wisbech (because the required start date was before term finished). I had little idea that this would lead me to staying with the bank for 35 years, moving around to different branches. I worked in Soho, London, in the early 1990s – quite an eye opener. I worked in Knightsbridge, looking after individuals from sport, television and media, and even once did the red carpet with Chris Rea. One of Bristol's highlights was the polo with Charles, Harry and William. Six years in Guernsey followed, before a move to the Isle of Man. A posthumous thank you to Carl Saunders for pushing me in that direction. Seven years ago, I left to become Head of Banking and Fiduciaries for the Isle of Man Government Business Development Agency. I have recently become Managing Director of Cherry Godfrey (a finance business), and Managing Director of Wealtheeze Software Solutions Ltd. I am guessing these will be my last jobs before retirement.



"I still recall my Housemaster's mantra to this day – be firm, fair and consistent – something which has guided me to this day."

A LIFE-LONG PASSION FOR SAILING

Mick O'Connor (Blake, 1973) started his note to us with a rhetorical question: "What did I do at School that I still love?" It was of course sailing.



"I have enjoyed dinghy sailing, windsurfing, and some off-shore sailing all my life. In retirement I got involved with RYA Sailability, taking physically handicapped and folk with learning difficulties in specially adapted boats. Incidentally Sailability was started in a little village called Wanlip (where I volunteer), on the edge of Leicester, and now has over 200 locations around the UK. Sailing has led me to doing rescue duty at my sailing club, and volunteering for a charity conducting river and canal trips on a wide beam barge for disabled folk too."

ANSON BOYS RUN THE THREE PEAKS

On 21 August 2021, Danny Jillions and Tom Enticknap (both Anson, 2001) took on the Three Peaks Challenge, along with three other friends, to raise awareness and much-needed funds to support two charities close to their hearts: The Hogarth Teenage Cancer Trust and Phoebe's Gift. Their challenge was to RUN the Three Peaks (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon) in under 24hrs. They completed their task in an impressive 21hrs, raising over £3,000 in support of both charities. "It would be fantastic if any RHS alumni could help support our drive by spreading the word or donating a few pennies," Danny told us. If you would like to donate, please contact the Alumni Office.



A MESSAGE FROM DOWN UNDER



Desmond Fougler (Nelson, 1959) wrote to us during lockdown. "Good morning from Fortress New Zealand," he said. "The RHS community in Australasia is alive and vibrant, with Facebook providing the best medium.

"For myself and wife Rose, having a home and an essential business (Mac computer service and support), life goes on. At 78 I still have no plans for retirement. A double knee replacement two years ago keeps me mobile. We also run our own charitable trust helping disadvantaged younger people.

"Thanks to Lucy and the RHSA, I keep in contact with the School and hope that next year's contribution will reflect better times. Old classmates who wish to communicate can find me on Facebook. Love to hear from anyone who wishes to get in touch."

THE NEXT PHASE



"Retirement is in the offing!" Adam Power (Anson, 1982) wrote to tell us. "After a busy career spanning the globe in both animal and human healthcare, I am hanging up my boots to spend less time managing businesses and more time managing to have fun. My academic and working life have been fantastic, and it is no exaggeration to say that it was down to the start given to me by the RHS.

"My three children are all either working or at university, my dog just died so there is no stopping my wife of 34 years and I exploring the world..... apart from COVID!

"I have a small number of retirement wishes which don't involve exploring, fishing, fine dining or cycling. They are to help people with small bits of land and gardens to see the value of wildflower meadows, to continue to help the NHS in its quest to improve its performance in sustainability, and to support my children in being responsible and balanced citizens in a world that seems to have gone mad. Great things to look forward to and achieve in the next phase of my life."

RECORDED FOR POSTERITY



Having carefully packed away all the items in the Heritage Centre ready for the conversion into a Heritage Café, Brian Gatward (Cornwallis, 1963), Claire Waugh (Cornwallis, 1999) and Howard Redwood (St Vincent, 1973) have undertaken the immense task of logging all the materials in the RHS archives. The project involves working through all 80 archive boxes, logging every item in the box, and carefully packing the items away again.

Each box contains a treasure trove of history, some of the items found so far include an inkwell made from the roof timbers of the Guildhall in London after the Great Fire in 1666, documentation from Greenwich Hospital outlining the suggested daily routine for its new school at Holbrook, and a silver jug dated 1826, presented by the Royal Company of Archers (HM The Queen's bodyguard for Scotland). The project is envisaged to take around 18 months to complete.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

Francesca Morelli (Cornwallis, 2015) graduated in 2021 as a Doctor from Birmingham University. In graduating she won the Brockington Prize in Psychiatry, and achieved a 1st class intercalated degree in Medical Humanities from Imperial College London. She will shortly start as an F1 Junior Doctor at London's Royal Free Hospital.



TONY MAKES A RETURN VISIT

Anthony (Tony) Winter (Cornwallis, 1960) left RHS to join the Royal Navy as an electrical engineer. "I have fond memories of my time at RHS and was eager to visit to see the changes," he says. "Luckily my grandson is in the RAF and is based at RAF Honington, so I was able to arrange a visit to RHS when I went to stay with him and his wife. Katie Gould (Blake, 2010) from the Alumni Office was very welcoming and it was so lovely to see how things have improved over the years.... no more communal cold showers!"



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

Follow your passion

Harry Wheeler-Brand *(Cornwallis, 2020) talks to* ***Lucy Pembroke*** *about how his love of photography has enabled him to start running photography workshops across the UK and publish his first book.*



WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?
I have always appreciated the landscapes of Suffolk, and when I was about 11 or 12 I would spend my days away from school exploring the local countryside. I adore weather and lighting, especially when both come together, these are the days which make great images. The greatest influence for my creative 'flair' was my mum and her print/advertising company, which always heavily interested me.

YOU ARE SELF TAUGHT, HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT LEARNING?
I have lots of books on photography, which taught me the basics. However, the best way to learn is by experimenting with the camera and making mistakes, it's also a great way to build up a portfolio and develop your creative process for capturing images and editing them. I do feel that I have learned more from my errors than my successes!

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPES OF MISTAKES YOU HAVE MADE?
In the beginning, I definitely didn't do enough planning, so I wasn't able to spend the time focusing on the photography. I can now spend three to four months planning a location or image. Researching the tides, lighting, cloud levels and of course the weather. Once that is all planned, then you can work out how to photograph the location, and do it real justice. Then you can push yourself out of your comfort zone. Rather than sticking with East Anglia, and familiar landscapes, I now run workshops along the UK's dramatic coastline... not everywhere is flat like East Anglia!

WHEN DID YOU START TO REALISE THAT YOUR HOBBY COULD BECOME A FULL-TIME CAREER?
I started selling prints when I was about 14, and at that age a £20 note is quite exciting. I think it was once I turned 16 that I realised I could potentially turn this into a career, after running my first photography workshop, which I enjoyed thoroughly. That really set the path for my future.

YOU DIDN'T STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY AT SCHOOL, WHY WAS THAT?
A lot of people ask me that. I studied BTEC Business and Entrepreneurship along with A Level Film. I didn't want to lose my passion for photography through the constraints of a curriculum and the assignments that go with it, plus photography was always a special escape for me.

YOU RUN WORKSHOPS FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST, HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?
My continued badgering! It took the National Trust about five years to get back to me. I was runner-up at the Young Landscape Photographer of the Year a couple of years ago, and I think that helped. I just didn't take no response as an answer. I now run photographic workshops at several of their sites including Dunwich, Felbrigg and Blickling Hall, and I am hoping to expand to cover other sites such as Ickworth, near Bury St Edmunds.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE ASPIRATIONS?
Ultimately, I want to take my workshops international, offering luxury photographic holidays, creating an utterly breathtaking experience for clients. I am a way off that at the moment, and probably in the 'honeymoon period' before the work becomes too serious!

YOU HAVE PUBLISHED YOUR FIRST BOOK, A PHOTO GUIDEBOOK TO EAST ANGLIA'S COAST. TELL ME ABOUT IT.
I am really proud of the book, which I researched, wrote and designed myself. The book covers over 40 locations and includes photographic tips such as locations to visit, seasonality, filters, the best time of year etc. I spent months researching each location. The initial print run was 1,000, but to date I have sold over 2,500 copies and I have just placed an order for another 1,000. It is available from my website as well as in Waterstones, WHSmiths, Amazon and 30 independent shops around East Anglia.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PUBLISH A SECOND BOOK?
Yes, it is in a way quite the opposite of the first, and I am still working on the content, but I hope to have it published in time for Christmas 2022.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS?
Take the images for yourself not for other people. Photographs are plagued by social media influences. It is important that YOU enjoy your images. ■









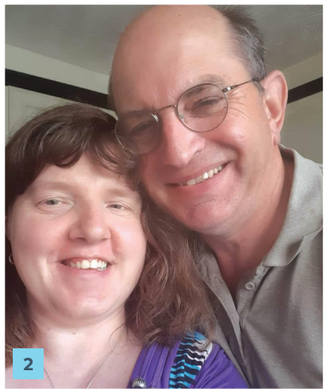
Photo credit: rawpixel.com

To find out more go to: ***www.harrybehindthelens.com***

Happily ever after...

What is it about RHS that means so many of you meet your long-term partner at School? We thought it high time we celebrated our wonderful alumni couples, with pictures of just a few of you who met at RHS.


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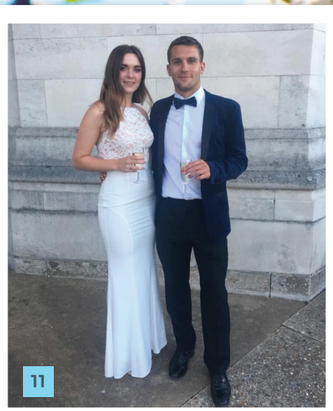

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RHS COUPLES:

1. Laura Stimpson née Banks (Cornwallis, 2009) and Sean Stimpson (St Vincent, 2009)
2. Claire Waugh (Cornwallis, 1999) and Howard Redwood (St Vincent, 1979)
3. Georgia Fergusson (Howe, 2010) and Rhys Evans (Anson, 2012)
4. Emma Goodridge-Hobson née Tottle (Cornwallis, 1995) and Paul Goodridge-Hobson (Drake, 1996)
5. Helen Finney née Groves (Howe, 2011) and Jack Finney (St Vincent, 2011)
6. Judith Milan née Hudson (Cornwallis, 2006) and Liam Milan (Collingwood, 2006)
7. Kim Wood née Griffiths (Blake, 2010) and Thomas Wood (Drake, 2007)
8. Crystal Ladbrook née Collins (Cornwallis, 1993) and Russell Ladbrook (Collingwood, 1999)
9. Elin McMahon née Callow (Cornwallis, 2007) and Jamie McMahon (Raleigh, 2007)
10. Ruth Steptoe née Curtis (Howe, 2014) and Oliver Steptoe (Collingwood, 2014)
11. Gemma Ayling (Hood, 2018) and Sam Hindley (St Vincent, 2017)
12. Victoria Barlett née Gray (Hood, 2008) and Rhys Bartlett (Collingwood, 2006)
13. Ruth Whitehead née Brampton (Howe, 2000) and Anthony Whitehead (St Vincent, 2000)

RHS MADE ME

IN 2021 THE MARKETING AND ALUMNI RELATIONS DEPARTMENTS MET TO DEVELOP THE IDEA OF SHOWCASING THE SUCCESSES OF SOME OF OUR ALUMNI AS PART OF A NEW BRANDING CAMPAIGN. IN AUGUST 2021 #RHSMADEME WAS LAUNCHED. RHS MARKETING EXECUTIVE HARRIET BOTWRIGHT (HOWE, 2014) TELLS US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN.



As a School, we focus on building resilience every day. We help our pupils thrive inside and outside the classroom. We present them with opportunities to stretch, improve, develop and learn about themselves. Our focus on life skills, breadth of interests and pastoral support helps every child build both their self-esteem and competencies whilst they are with us. Pupils leave RHS with great qualifications, but they also leave with the tools and the inner confidence to successfully achieve their ambitions.

It's these sorts of outcomes that parents are most interested in when it comes to choosing an education for their child – how will the school support their child in fulfilling their potential, and equip them for success? We could think of no better way to pique the interest of prospective parents than to highlight the achievements of some of our incredible alumni.

To be successful is so subjective. To some it might be working in an industry they love, to others it might be financial rewards. We all know that to be successful you MUST enjoy what you do. This is what the #RHSMadeMe campaign is all about. It's about showcasing a mix of successful alumni from all types of careers.



> To be successful you MUST enjoy what you do

To support our #RHSMadeMe campaign, we launched a podcast called 'Sit Down with RHS'. Each interview 'pulls back the curtain', giving the listener a deeper understanding of how RHS sets students up for success. In the first series, we spoke to a number of impressive alumni who were chosen to take part in our #RHSMadeMe campaign, with each one recounting different stories of how RHS has shaped them into who they are today.

The campaign has been a tremendous success and our Admissions Department team are the busiest they have ever been!





THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI FOR TAKING PART:

Jonathan Ilori (Hawke, 2011); Freya Richmond (Howe, 2011); Hannah Stodel (Howe, 2003); Tony Nicholson (Drake, 2004); Reece Topley (Drake, 2011); Annalise Matthews (Howe, 2012); Kate Somerset Holmes (Blake, 2001); Jack Beaman (St Vincent, 2005) and George Hockley (Hawke, 2012).









Behind the scenes: Catering

ONE OF THE BUSIEST DEPARTMENTS AT RHS MUST BE CATERING. ON AN AVERAGE WEEK, WITH ONLY A STAFF OF 10, THEY OFFER 70 DIFFERENT DISHES, FEEDING 6,650 MOUTHS, SERVING (AND WASHING) 13,300 PLATES.

To find out more, Lucy Pembroke met with four members of the catering staff who have been at RHS collectively for 130 years. Mark, 34 years; Dave, 34 years; Colleen, 32 years; and Mick, 30 years. We shall not divulge their ages!

HOW DID YOU ALL COME TO WORK AT RHS?

"Mark and I were born here," says Colleen. "Both our fathers were chefs at RHS." In fact, Mark grew up in No. 5 and Colleen in No. 10. Both Mark and Colleen started working at RHS aged just 18. Mark as a catering apprentice, while Colleen studied catering at the Suffolk College of Further Education, before starting at RHS as a chef.

Dave is also Suffolk born and bred. "My mother left when I was very young, so I cooked for my younger brother and father." Dave attended the same college as Colleen, and although it was at a different time, they had the same teacher.

> It's like a family, especially the four of us

Mick ran away to join the Army Catering Corps (now part of the Royal Logistics Corps), and served in Germany, Denmark, Cyprus (where he got a good tan), and at Windsor Castle no less, cooking for the Household Cavalry, before joining RHS after replying to an advertisement.

HAS MUCH CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

"We cooked with steam when we first started," Mark says. "There were also more staff in the kitchens and less machinery. With only six ovens to cook all the food, each one had to be cleaned after each serving, which required a huge amount of time and manpower." Today, they have six self-cleaning ovens which allows the team to spend more time cooking and less time cleaning.

In those days there was a Catering Manager, Head Chef and Second Chef. The menu was repeated every four weeks and all menus were signed off by the Bursar. Colleen's father still has his menu book from 1979 (pictured). Today, there is a three-week rolling menu which is reviewed every term.

In 2021 the kitchen is a sophisticated engine room, at lunch times catering for 750 pupils and 200 staff.

"The meals are much healthier today," Dave explains. "The budget per pupil has increased, and the recipes are more sophisticated." One substantially improved area is the 'Wash Up'. Prior to refurbishment, the cleaning of the plates took an hour and a half with a machine which was over 40 years old. In 2016 a conveyer belt was fitted to improve the stacking of plates, and a more efficient dishwasher can now clean 2,000 plates in 40 minutes.

WHEN IS YOUR BUSIEST TIME?

"Definitely Remembrance Weekend," says Colleen. "We usually have more than 3,000 people visiting RHS in some capacity, including alumni, parents and friends, as well as the usual feeding of pupils and staff." They prepare and serve an astounding 3,850 meals over the Saturday and Sunday. "The weekend flies by, but it is very hard work, and requires all hands on deck," Mick adds.

One thing certainly hasn't changed. "Fish on Fridays," says Dave. "Once Chef changed it to a Thursday, and the Bursar went nuts!" Today it is still a firm favourite along with the Sunday roast dinners.

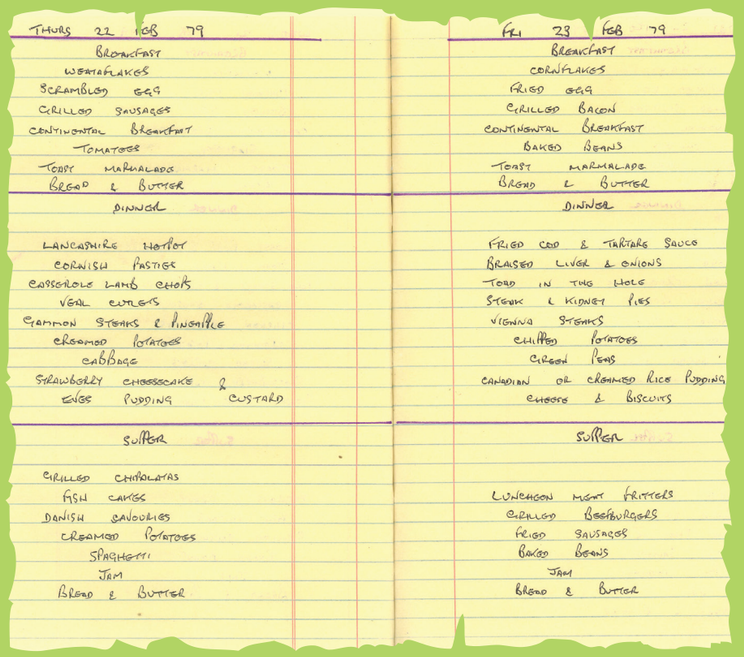
SO WHAT HAS MADE YOU STAY SO LONG?

Everyone agrees when I ask them about their favourite thing about being part of the RHS team. "The camaraderie," Mick says quickly. "Absolutely," Colleen says. "It's like a family, especially the four of us."

So, it seems that like the pupils, the staff at RHS also make friends for life. ☐

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Previous page, from left: Dave, Mark, Mick and Colleen

Top right: The catering team in the 1970s with Mark's father top left

Bottom right: A page from Colleen's father's menu book, written in 1979.

A FOND FAREWELL



ALAN JOHN MYERS
(Hawke, 1951)

Alan attended RHS as his father was killed whilst serving on the HMS Curacoa in October 1942, when it collided with the American ship, HMT Queen Mary. He was in Hawke House from 1947 to 1951.

He was in the top stream all the way through School. On leaving RHS, he didn't want to join the Navy, and instead secured a job with the British India Steam Navigation Company (School even paid for his suit). He then joined P&O and spent 44 years with them, ending up as Director of Operations for P&O Cruises. He took early retirement in 1984, when P&O moved from London to Southampton. He and his wife Iris spent many holidays cruising (he was entitled to a lifetime of concessions!) until the early 2000s. They stopped when the ships became too big!

He loved RHS, serving as the Vice President of the RHSA East Anglia Branch for many years, even naming his house after the RHSA motto *'Otia Tuta'*. Both Alan and Iris attended every Notes and Nibbles and many RHS concerts. His last wish was to have his ashes scattered in the Garden of Remembrance, on Saturday 6 November 2021.



PROFESSOR JOHN WILLIAM WINSTON STUDD
(Cornwallis, 1957)

A very shy boy with a stutter, John's Housemaster Mr Burbidge took him under his wing, encouraging him to learn and recite poetry and Shakespeare to gain confidence. John blossomed, and was one of the first pupils to win a place at university, reading medicine at Birmingham, graduating in 1962.

He pioneered the sequential oestrogen/progestogen treatment (HRT) for the menopause, opening the first menopause clinic in Europe in 1969. He also championed the use of hormone implants for women with osteoporosis, and for those with severe depression after the menopause.

He was the Founder and Vice President of the National Osteoporosis Society, and former Chairman of the British Menopause Society. A consultant gynaecologist at Kings College Hospital and Chelsea and Westminster, as well as Professor of Gynaecology at Imperial College, he continued his practice until 2019.

In 2008 he was awarded the Blair Bell Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine, which is given every five years to the obstetrician or gynaecologist who has made the greatest lifetime contribution to the specialty.

John was a major supporter of the Centennial Bursary Fund, and the School is immensely grateful that the family requested donations to the Bursary Fund in place of flowers at his funeral.



JOHN NICHOLAS MCINTEAR
(Anson, 1974)

John joined the Royal Navy straight from RHS at 16, becoming an Aircraft Handler in the Auxiliary Fleet Air Arm.

He had a lifelong passion for cricket and had umpired for many years. In 2018 he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. This quickly prevented him from standing for extended periods. However, his determination to remain involved in the game of cricket saw him launch a fundraising appeal to purchase a powered wheelchair to enable him to continue umpiring. He successfully raised £8,500, including a contribution from the RHSA, and he was 'back in the middle of the cricket pitch' in no time!

But John didn't stop there, and in July 2021 he launched *Sports Officiating from a Powered Wheelchair (SOPW),* a 12-month campaign to help wheelchair users participate in officiating able-bodied sports, by identifying national charities and organisations who could fund powered wheelchairs for this purpose. The campaign was highlighted in a Parliamentary debate, something John was immensely proud of.

John was due to visit RHS in October, but passed away suddenly in early August. John's legacy continues within the world of sport. SOPW met with Sport England in September, and the hope is to see mobility impaired officials at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

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:

TERRANCE DAVID BEATON
(Collingwood, 1949) November 2021

CHRISTOPHER BELL
(Cornwallis, 1974) October 2021

NIGEL SHACKLETON BURTON
(Cornwallis, 1963) October 2021

ROSS CHAMBERS
(Anson, 2012) September 2021

DUDLEY CLARK
(Anson, 1956) January 2021

DAVID EDWARD COBB
(Drake, 1965) December 2020

CHARLES ANTHONY CRITOPH
(Anson, 1984) November 2020

DAVID FRAZER PETRIE EATON
(Hawke, 1967) December 2020

ROBERT COMPTON EVANS
(Nelson, 1956) September 2020

DERRICK JOHN FINNIGAN
(Cornwallis, 1949) November 2020

JEREMY EVAN FOALE
(Collingwood, 1978) June 2021

ANTHONY ROBERT GOODBURN
(Cornwallis, 1946) September 2020

EDWIN JAMES GOVER
(Anson, 1946) 2021

GERALD FREDERICK GREEN
(Hood, 1957) July 2021

PHILIP LLOYD MILTON HADLEY
(Cornwallis, 1968) June 2021

NICHOLAS GUY HANCOCK
(Cornwallis, 1963) July 2021

DAVID JOHN HEMLIN
(St Vincent, 1965) March 2021

JOHN HOLLINS
(Anson, 1951) September 2020

ROBERT HENRY HUTCHINGS
(Nelson, 1961) April 2021

RAYMOND LAUGHTON KINGSHOTT
(Collingwood, 1941) October 2021

TERENCE MALCOLM MALTHOUSE
(Raleigh, 1947) 2021

GEORGE CHARLES MASON
(Anson, 1956) July 2021

JOHN NICHOLAS MCINTEAR
(Anson, 1974) August 2021

WILLIAM JOHN DEREK MERRETT
(Hood, 1956) October 2021

THOMAS MILLER
(Raleigh, 2015) December 2020

NELSON STANLEY NUTTAL MORTON
(Unknown, 1935) August 2021

ALAN JOHN MYERS
(Hawke, 1951) March 2021

DAVID ROBINSON PILMOOR
(Blake, 1952) February 2021

WILLIAM ROBERT POYNTON
(Cornwallis, 1950) November 2020

JOHN HOWARD PREECE
(Anson, 1974) January 2021

WILLIAM CHARLES SAGROTT
(Hood, 1946) October 2021

JULIAN LOUIS SAUNDERS
(Nelson, 1973) May 2021

SELWYN NORMAN SMITH
(Hood, 1954) October 2020

MICHAEL CHARLES SMITH
(Anson, 1954) January 2021

JOHN WILLIAM WINSTON STUDD
(Cornwallis, 1957) August 2021

JOHN ERIC TAYLOR
(Nelson, 1963) December 2020

RICHARD ALFRED WATERS BEM
(Raleigh, 1951) October 2021

VICTOR EDWARD WEBB
(Howe, 1942) December 2020

ANTHONY ALFRED WELLS
(Anson, 1956) June 2021

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL WENN
(Hawke, 1972) August 2021

IAN FRANCIS WHITTLE
(St Vincent, 1949) October 2021

GRAHAM CHARLES WICKS
(Howe, 1957) January 2021

RONALD WORMALD
(Hood, 1955) October 2020



He did it!

On Saturday 10 October 2020, during the Britain's Got Talent Final, the RHS (Alumni) Association social media team engaged more than 20,000 alumni, pupils, families, staff and members of the public. It was just incredible!

The whole RHS community was in a jubilant mood when musician and comedian Jon Courtenay (Blake, 1991) won Britain's Got Talent with a whopping 35.7% of the public vote. Jon proved that with RHS grit and resilience you can achieve your dreams, especially when 'overnight success' comes after 30 years of hard work.

"Lucy Pembroke and I have just bust a blood vessel or two live on a virtual call!"
AIMEE FRANKHAM (CORNWALLIS, 1995)

"A really good result for Jon, he was the best act by far and showed the amount of hard work that went into his performance, a well-deserved win. Must watch his Royal Variety Show appearance."
ROBERT HUMPHREY (BLAKE, 1961)

"We watched it together and were really happy for Jon and proud of our School."
RHS PUPIL, YEAR 12



Above and below: Jon has visited RHS a few times recently.

Right: Jon in a school play.



LOOKING BACK

RHS ARCHIVE

10 YEARS AGO
2011

25 YEARS AGO
1996

50 YEARS AGO
1971

JUNIORS REPRESENT RHS AT MATHS NATIONALS

A team of Year 8 and 9 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge event in Cambridge, and were placed a highly creditable second. The team was comprised of Sean Cuddihy (Collingwood, 2015), Olivia Peacock (Blake/Howe/Raleigh, 2013), Anna Wynn (Anson, 2016), and Tristan Powell (Collingwood, 2016) and they went on to represent RHS in the national finals in London. They performed admirably, to finish 85th in the country, which was a great achievement given that there were 1,500 schools competing.

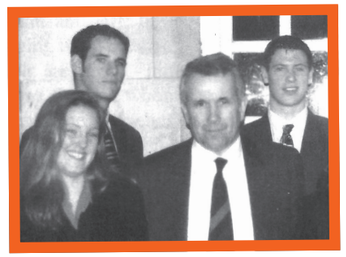




The London final consisted of five rounds of extremely challenging mathematical puzzles, with 96 schools competing on the day.

TALKING ABOUT BEING IN HARM'S WAY

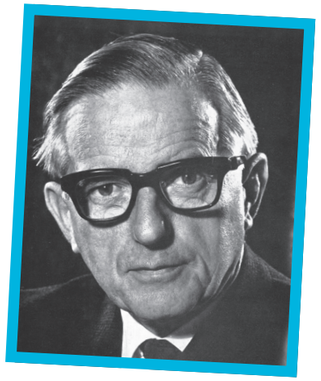
BBC war correspondent Martin Bell OBE visited RHS. When asked the question "which place and conflict had the most impact on you?" his emphatic reply was "Bosnia." Questions from students ranged from "what goes through your mind as bombs and guns go off beside you?" to "what details of your work do you find most enjoyable?" – all of which were answered in the familiar voice that we are more used to hearing over the explosion of shells than the whistle of the Holbrook wind.



Above from left to right: Vicky Pearce (née Pilley) (Cornwallis, 1997), Chris Butler (Nelson, 1997), Martin Bell OBE, and Ed Sleath, Head Boy (Nelson, 1997).

A LIFETIME'S SERVICE

Mr Tate retired at the end of the summer term in 1971, having joined RHS at Easter 1933. Thus, apart from his absence for RAF service between 1941 and 1945 during the Second World War, he spent 38 years in the service of this School. He was Housemaster of Nelson for six years, transferring to St. Vincent in 1939, and resuming his housemastership after being demobbed. He became Second Master in 1957, serving for 14 years. He was always truly devoted to the School.



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