GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



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FEATURES



RHS@25: JAMES PARKER

From a BA (Hons) in Criminology and Social Sciences to a career in estate management, James Parker is now on a path to qualify as a Rural Chartered Surveyor.



INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR: REBECCA TAYLOR-NEALE

Sailing was Rebecca Taylor-Neale's hobby at RHS, little did she know she would end up working on rather bigger craft!



CHANGING PLACES

Spot the difference! We take a look at some pictures from the Royal Hospital School archives, and see how parts of the School have changed over the years.



PASS IT ON

We're embarking on an exciting fundraising campaign to 'launch 100 lives' by 2033, the School's Holbrook centenary, and fund bursaries for an RHS education.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT: TOM BLACKETT

PT Tom Blackett explains his fascination with ultra-marathon running, and has wellbeing advice for those at the start of their careers.



BEHIND THE SCENES: THE LAUNDRY

Lauren Bayliss-Fuller visits the laundry – and marvels at how many loads get done each day! We meet the team who keep RHS's textiles spotless and smart.

Welcome

It seems strange to reflect that I am writing this to all of you who have escaped from RHS – because I didn't, really – but as VP of the RHSA it's my job to welcome you to the fourth issue of our enlightening Gidge magazine.

As many of you will know, the gravitational force here pulled me back; for me there was only a brief interlude of life outside, during quite a famously challenging time for British society.

We appear to be entering similarly choppy waters currently: a cost of living squeeze, high interest rates, soaring inflation et al. It is certainly reminiscent of the 1970s, when we had a three-day week, power cuts, miners' strikes and high interest rates. I remember doing my O Level English exam in the Assembly Hall in November 1972, with no heating! Almost Dickensian! Unemployment was also high, so when I graduated from university getting a job was really difficult.

But this sad tale actually has a happier ending. It is precisely because I didn't get the science jobs I'd applied for that I went back to university again to train as a teacher. It actually wasn't because I wanted to teach, and I certainly had no plans to come back to RHS. I simply rather enjoyed university life! Armed with my qualification I was then asked to come back to RHS to teach a little chemistry. I actually trained as a PE teacher, but at least it was an opportunity, at a time when they were thin on the ground.

Taking that opportunity gifted me with the most fulfilling career and the best times of my life. A time when I have had the privilege of meeting many of you, either in the biology labs, on the games field, or in CCF or DofE. It has also enabled me to have a sense of pride as I learn of your achievements, knowing that we all went to the same School.

But what if I hadn't taken that opportunity?

I believe that what our School has given us is that confidence to take our chances, to back our hunches, and not to fear changes in direction - the qualities that enable us to embrace unexpected opportunities when they appear.

As for the current testing times - don't worry, I've lived long enough to know that better days will come around again!

MONTY CALLOW (DRAKE, 1974)
VICE PRESIDENT RHS (ALUMNI) ASSOCIATION

A reflection on the past year



Above: Jaz Skingle and Bruce Qi, Speech Day 2022.

To have everyone back in the boarding house this year was a brilliant feeling, and we were lucky enough to experience all the socials too, such as the casino-themed Sixth Form Social and the amazing Trafalgar Night. I also know the first Divisions of the year will be a memory many of us will not forget. It made me realise how lucky I was to be a part of such traditions.

What I noticed more, as well, were the little things about RHS that make the school so special; people seemed to do them more in their final year. Everyone just talking in the day room, playing pool, going on runs along the sea wall, walking to the fish-and-chip van on a Thursday evening, students supporting their friends in sports matches, sighing when the fire alarm went off on a Friday morning...

The summer was an incredibly strange time for my year group since none of us had ever done public exams before (unless we're counting SATs). There was a sense of disbelief that we were actually going to sit in an exam hall! Then there was Speech Day: emotional, to say the least. Watching all my friends leave the parade ground for the last time was a particularly hard moment, but having us all gather in the hall, hugging and smiling, made it worthwhile.

The year as a whole just solidified the fact RHS provides us with so many opportunities, memories and learnings. Although I miss it dearly, reflecting on the year just proves how the School set us up for success in the future, wherever we may be.

WRITTEN BY JAZ SKINGLE (DRAKE, 2022)
ON BEHALF OF THE 2022 HEADS OF SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

FALKLANDS 40TH ANNIVERSARY: ALUMNI REMEMBER

The 2 April marked the 40th anniversary of the start of the Falklands War. Many members of the RHS community, their fathers, and their family members served in the Task Force, and we've had several of them share their memories with us.

Alexander Bowden, son of George Murray Bowden (RHS Wardmaster from 1989 –1998) said: "The Falklands conflict was undoubtedly my father's most testing life experience. He travelled down to the Falklands on HMS Hermes, one of a small team of senior-rating nurses to be deployed to the Ajax Bay Field Hospital. The medics of Ajax Bay continued to care tirelessly for the wounded (both British and Argentinean), despite knowledge of



Left: CMT Murray Bowden (far right) from Number 1 Surgical Support Team.

two undetonated Argentine bombs which remained in the hospital building following an air attack on the 25 May. The staff of the hospital have the proud record that not one British serviceman died while under their care throughout the whole conflict, despite the constant threat from Argentinean bombers and fighter jets."

"I was the Chief Petty Officer Stores Accountant on HMS Plymouth for the duration of the Falklands War. The ship was engaged in all aspects of the conflict from engagements in San Carlos from the day of the landings, to the surrender of the Argentine Forces in South Georgia. Captain David Pentreath was awarded the DSO on our return whilst he was CO Naval College Greenwich."



Above: Captain Pentreath, having received the DSO, with a few of the crew. Ron Lansley and his wife are front right.

RON LANSLEY (ST VINCENT/HAWKE, 1961)

"I remember it being a really difficult time, my father was on a Type 21 frigate HMS Arrow, part of the first group of ships to arrive on station in the South Atlantic. There were a few of us with dads in the conflict, and several in Collingwood. The Arrow was due to arrive back in Portsmouth two days after Speech Day in 1982. The Captain, Paul Botherstone, arranged for my dad to be flown off the ship by helicopter. Much to my surprise he made Speech Day!"



Above: 'Unexploded Missile' - a photo from CMT Murray Bowden's collection

PAUL JONES (COLLINGWOOD, 1987)

"This is my late father CPO Michael Debenham (Aircraft Handler) being greeted by us on the homecoming of his ship HMS Hermes, the flagship aircraft carrier of the conflict. My brother Michael was given permission to wear his No.1s for the day."



AIMEE FRANKHAM (CORNWALLIS, 1995)

OUR HEADMASTER REMEMBERS

"I remember the excitement ahead of HMS Hermes' return and boarding a launch to go on board. My father was the Navigating Officer of HMS Hermes and returned as CO to hand over the ship to the Indian Navy when she became INS Viraat."



SIMON LOCKYER, HEADMASTER



OUR HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPION

RHS's own Head of Hockey, Sarah Daley, did exceptionally well over the summer, winning her third gold medal in the World Cup O40s England Masters 2022. Overall, Sarah played six games, including the final where England won 2-0 against Argentina. During the championship Sarah scored four open-play goals and was a top 10 goal scorer for the overall tournament.

"Hockey requires dedication, resilience and commitment. I have had to overcome several injuries this year, and had the difficulty of tailoring my training around that to ensure that I can give everything I can," said Sarah. "The fulfilment of playing so well and being part of a successful team provides an immense feeling of accomplishment."

We are all very proud of our World Champion!

ALUMNI REUNITED AFTER 61 YEARS!

Brian Buckley (Anson, 1960) sent the Alumni and Community Office a photo of himself with Jim Hendry (Anson, 1960) having met up in December 2021, 61 years since they left RHS. They still got on just as well as they did when they were at School!



Back in November 2018 Brian returned to RHS for Remembrance Weekend, and the visit brought back so many memories for him, it prompted him to reach out to RHSA Membership Secretary, Mark Lucas, to help him contact some of those who were in Anson at the same time.

If you would like to make contact with the people who shared your RHS experience, do let the Alumni and Community Office know, and we can help make it happen. Call 01473 326183 or email **kgould@royalhospitalschool.org**.



HERITAGE CAFÉ OPENS

Our new Heritage Café is now open! Our pupils, parents and staff members have all been enjoying the space and using it to catch up on work as well as socialising with friends. Located in the former Heritage Centre, on the east side of the terrace, the Café provides a welcoming environment for pupils, staff and parents to enjoy a drink and snack together. If you're visiting for a tour or event, please pop in for a coffee.





SPEECH DAY 2022

We were delighted to welcome Vice Admiral Martin Connell CBE, Second Sea Lord, to our Speech Day celebrations.

The Vice Admiral addressed guests before presenting pupils with their awards during our Prize Giving Ceremony. He concluded his duties as inspecting officer at our Divisions, where families proudly watched their young people march on the parade ground for the final time this academic year.

He commented on Twitter after the event: "A privilege to take the salute and award (>150) prizes at @RHSSuffolk annual Prize Giving Divisions. Exceptional drill and inspiring stories in an evocative setting overlooking the Stour estuary. Thanks to Headmaster Simon Lockyer and all the staff for allowing me to be a part of the day."

RELIGION, PEACE AND CONFLICT

As part of our careers-focused RHS Futures initiative, the Year 11 Religious Studies pupils were treated to a talk from RHS alumnus Oliver Gerard-Pearse (Collingwood, 2013). Oliver works for The HALO Trust, the largest mine clearance charity in the world. Oliver spoke to pupils about his work clearing land mines, working with local organisations and governments, and supporting victims. His job has taken him around the world, to countries including Cambodia, Armenia and most recently Ukraine.

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

The Remembrance Weekend Reunion started on Saturday with the AGM, followed by a competitive game of rugby. It was fantastic to see so many alumni of all ages down the fields to support the players – it was certainly a hard-fought match! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Cantelo (Collingwood, 1981) for all his hard work over the past decade arranging the matches and telling people to 'BBPR' (Bring Boots, Play Rugby).

We also held an alumni vs. RHS pupils hockey match. It was a great game, but the pupils showed their calibre and took the trophy in the end! The day finished in The Shed, with a curry, and lots of reminiscing about school memories having visited boarding houses earlier in the day. Prizes were awarded to Tom Ecktinap (the Spirit of Rugby, Kez Poolton Trophy), Shaun Wood (the Stephen Lineham Trophy, Man of the Match for Rugby), and the RHS hockey team (Peter Crick Memorial Board Trophy).

The Sunday of Remembrance Weekend is always a key date in the School calendar, and it was wonderful to see the alumni squad looking so smart on parade in amongst the pupils. The Chapel service took place after Divisions, with an Act of Remembrance following in the Memorial Garden.

Over the weekend many alumni visited the art department, to see the Bloodlines installation. Drawing on the East Asian concept of the red thread of fate that binds people together, and taking inspiration from artist Chiharu Shiota, members of our School and local community created an incredibly emotive art installation that weaves a web of connections between those who have served for their country and people in their community – both in School and in the locality.

We're already thinking about next year's reunion – if you have any ideas, or wish to gather a group of your year or house together, we'd love to hear from you.







George Franks Photography



HMS GANGES TRAINING MAST TO BE RESTORED

Our School Band was invited to play at the removal of the former HMS Ganges training mast at Shotley Gate. The mast has been sent off for restoration work, after which it is planned to be re-erected in early 2025 as part of the residential development on the site.

Between 1905 and 1976 HMS Ganges was used as a training establishment for Royal Navy recruits, where they would learn relevant military skills on land prior to naval selection. The training base saw 160,000 recruits through its gates over the 71 years it was operational.

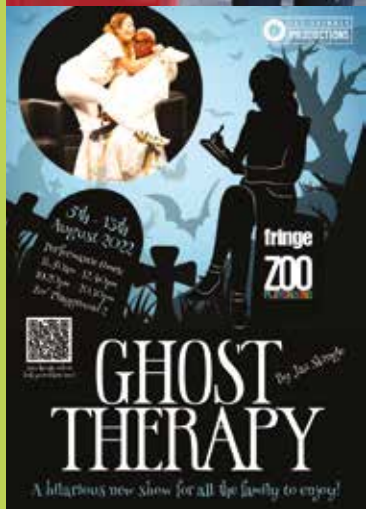
Historically, many of our former pupils finished at RHS then moved to HMS Ganges before joining the Navy. We look forward to seeing the mast back in place in the future, restored to its former glory.

EDINBURGH FRINGE SUCCESS FOR JAZ

Jaz Skingle (Drake, 2022) left RHS in July and she has already been very busy! She took her first show (Ghost Therapy, which she wrote and directed) to the Edinburgh Fringe, and started her first year at university.

Jaz received some amazing reviews for Ghost Therapy, as well as winning Best New Writing at the Derek Awards. She is currently extending the script after speaking to other theatres who are interested in a longer run of the production. She is also adapting it into a pilot TV episode.







KEAN TO SUCCEED!

This year, Archie Kean (Raleigh, 2022) has really shown hard work pays off – not only was his Geography A Level remarked to an A*, but he also debuted for Northampton Saints against Saracens.

Having signed a professional contract with Northampton Saints earlier in the year, he played his debut game in the first team against Saracens on Wednesday 5 October in the second round of the Premiership Rugby Cup, and has also since played in round three against Harlequins, winning both games 58-34 and 49-29 respectively. Archie is currently playing professional rugby alongside reading Economics at Loughborough University.

"Getting an opportunity to play with such a talented group of players in front of 4,500+ spectators was an unreal experience," Archie explains. "The past few months have been a very exciting step up for me."

ALUMNUS' EXPERT ADVICE ON H&S

Dr Andy Painting (Hawke, 1981) has co-written a book with his colleague David England. The book, *An Effective Strategy for Safe Design in Engineering and Construction*, will be of interest to those who are designers, project managers, surveyors and insurers, or anyone studying construction or engineering subjects at university. It can be ordered from any good bookshop, or direct from the publishers at www.wiley.com.



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 ***Lauren Bayliss-Fuller*** *chats to* ***James Parker*** *(Collingwood, 2015).*



IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR GRADUATES TO TAKE AN ENTIRELY FRESH PATH AFTER LEAVING ACADEMIA, HAVING DECIDED THAT PERHAPS THEIR DESTINY LIES IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. FOR JAMES PARKER, THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE, ALTHOUGH HE'S CANDID ABOUT HIS REASONS FOR CHOOSING HIS DEGREE AND THEN HIS POST-UNIVERSITY LOCATION.

"I went to Nottingham Trent University to study Criminology, but more so as an excuse to play University rugby!" he laughs. "I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do yet, so criminology was a way of exploring something new and interesting. After leaving Nottingham Trent, I moved to London and became an estate agent working in Notting Hill and Holland Park."

Ultimately, James found estate agency wasn't for him, as he wanted to be outside more and enjoy the countryside as that's where he grew up. "I was furloughed during the outbreak of COVID and I saw this as my opportunity to get out! So I went to The Royal Agricultural University (RAU) in Cirencester, and completed a Masters in Rural Estate Management."

BACK IN FATIGUES

As well as going back to his roots with his postgrad subject matter, James rekindled something of his RHS Friday afternoons. "I joined the Army Reserves and was attached to A Coy, 7th Battalion, Rifles as an infantry soldier and have been serving now for nearly two years. I enjoy the camaraderie within the platoon right down to section level, as well as the opportunities to be outside, learn new skills, and engage in personal development."

While he was at RAU, James was accepted to become the residential land agent for the West Wycombe Estate. "I was over the moon about it. I worked there part time whilst I was writing my dissertation on rewilding Britain," he explains. "Upon completion of my Masters, I started working full time on the estate, and am lucky enough to be given a house to live in as well as other perks as part of the job."

EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT

As the land agent, James' role is to manage the diverse enterprises on the estate, from agriculture, residential property (including landlord-tenant law), and a commercial portfolio, to woodland and forestry, fishing, shooting, stalking, filming, the infamous Hellfire Caves, and much more besides. "I work to achieve the objectives of the family who own the estate, whether it be to make the estate more profitable, more eco-friendly, or just to make it run more efficiently," he continues.

Since moving to West Wycombe, James transferred from A Coy to B Coy, 7 Rifles and is now part of an anti-tank platoon. "Our training heightened during the Russian invasion of Ukraine due to Russia having the largest tank army in the world," he says. "Originally, I wanted to be a regular in the Army, however, having experienced life as a land agent, I am very content with what I do in the 'civvy' world. I am yet to do any deployments with 7 Rifles, but am looking forward to deploying with them in the near future."



Above: James made his career change so he could spend more time outdoors.

But is it all happy days, or are there pressures too? "Being a residential land agent can be hard work, and living where you work makes it difficult to switch off. I constantly find myself working on weekends, too. My escape is seeing my friends in London which is fortunately less than an hour away, and going away with the Army."

ADVICE FOR BUDDING LAND AGENTS

"Those looking for a job as a rural chartered surveyor or land agent (they're technically the same), should read up on the changing policies facing landowners in the UK, find new and exciting ways to diversify land, and get to grips with 'Natural Capital' buzz words for the future," he advises. "And look at either the RAU, Harper Adams, or Reading University to begin your surveying career."

For those interesting in jointing the Army Reserves, James' advice is to take the plunge! "The Army is slowly adapting to the increase in Reserve soldiers and Officers, and understand that it is YOUR choice to be there, so they will accommodate to you (within reason!)," he explains. "You will learn a plethora of skills, meet great people, travel the world, and get paid for it. Get your head down, and get stuck in!" ■

Rebecca Taylor-Neale: all (sea) change



Rebecca Taylor-Neale *(Cornwallis, 2014) is very literally navigating her success through hard work and determination . She took time to speak with* ***Lauren Bayliss-Fuller*** *about her change of career direction and the journey into her new role as 2nd Officer at Royal Caribbean Group.*

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW. DID YOU ALWAYS INTEND TO JOIN THE MERCHANT NAVY?

I actually went to Brighton University to do Fashion Design and Business, after A Levels in Fine Art, Textiles Art and History of Art. I loved those subjects, and spent all my time in the art block when I was at RHS, but I found the crowd at university weren't particularly nice and I hated the course.

Sailing was a hobby of mine at RHS, but while I loved the CCF/Marines, and obviously heard plenty about the RN, I had no idea about the merchant navy – it was a silent industry to me. That's why I am so passionate about celebrating it and sharing what it is about. After university, when I was considering my career direction while doing seasonal work in the US and then in Spain, an RHS sailing friend of mine, Simon Cooper, suggested I consider the merchant navy. I applied, and within a month I had a job!

I just chucked myself into it. It was like being back at school – and I was 23 at the time! I have now found a job I am passionate about. I don't care what time of day I must get up, and sometimes it's crazy, I am happy to do it. My aim is to become a Captain. It's been a male-dominated industry for years, but things are changing, and I know several women working at this level who are great role models.

WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR SUCCESS?

Hard work. My grandma always says to me it's not luck - the harder you work, the luckier you become. During my exam period I wanted to pass so badly, so I used the determination and work ethic I learned at School. I wouldn't be where I am now if it weren't for RHS.

I'd also suggest saying 'yes' to things. For example, as a deck officer it's not my department at all, but if the engineers can teach me new things it'll help my career in the long run. Similarly, I value networking opportunities. I use social media, particularly LinkedIn for work – my role at Royal Caribbean is a direct result of using this platform. Personal social accounts can help, too, my Instagram has helped direct people to my LinkedIn.



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

Don't panic about not knowing what you want to do, things will fall into place. Also, it's okay to not go to university, apprenticeships and learning on the job are sometimes a better path. I would never say I regret uni, but in hindsight I think being a bit older when studying meant my motivation was more – I knew what I wanted by then. I got grades I never dreamt of getting, but I think that is because of my passion. I am a geek for ships!

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TIME AT RHS. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL MEMORIES?

I had the time of my life at RHS. I came to an open day, stayed the night, and never wanted to leave! I started in the Christmas term of 2008, in Year 8, and I originally came for the sailing – I was the only girl who sailed for the first couple of years, and I got my sailing colours. But the general ethos, that drive to achieve your best, and all about togetherness and community, has very much stayed with me. I also feel that RHS gives you unique memories, the kind you wouldn't get from other schools, such as Divisions and marching to Mess.

One massive moment, which really built my confidence, was in my last year at School, speaking in front of everyone in assembly as Sailing Captain. I was sitting next to the Headmaster with my heart beating through my back, all the chairs felt as if they were moving because I was so, so nervous. But I had memorised my speech so well, I even think I could do it now!

Singing 'Jerusalem' is a really strong memory, too. I remember singing it during my last Chapel service, crying all the way through. Nobody sings like RHS.

DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE?

It's difficult to meet up as we are all so busy and of course I am travelling a lot, but our lovely year group all got on well, and we try to stay in touch whenever we can. ■

YOU CAN FOLLOW REBECCA'S CAREER PROGRESS THROUGH HER SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, @BECCA_TAYLOR25 ON INSTAGRAM, AND ON LINKEDIN AT WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/REBECCA-TAYLOR-NEALE-02B22B99/

Changing places

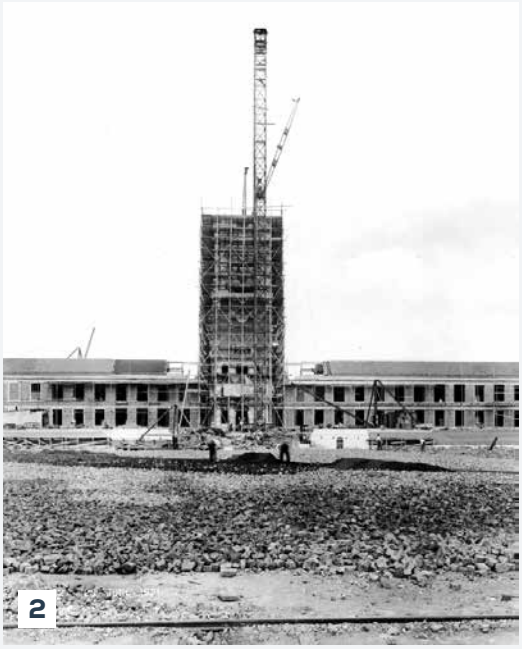
*Here in the **Alumni and Community Office** we love it when former pupils come back for a tour. It's always so nice to hear alum reminisce about their time at RHS, but we also like to see their reactions to things that might have changed. Here we take a look at some classic RHS landmarks and see what might have changed, or – sometimes surprisingly – stayed the same.*

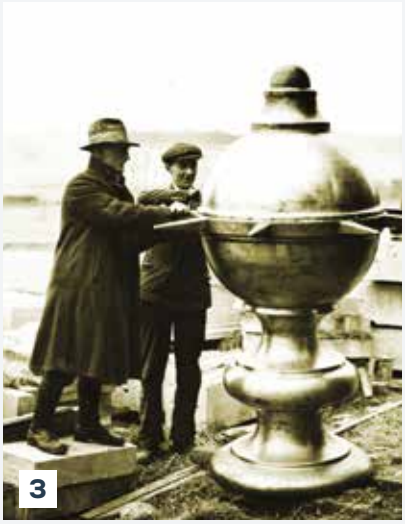
The Clock Tower

The Clock Tower is perhaps the most recognisable RHS symbol, and just the sound of the bells can take you right back to your days at the School. Although the construction of the Tower might not have changed, it might interest you to know that it is now host to some interesting native wildlife. A pair of Peregrine falcons chose to make it their home during lockdown, and it was to the delight of our Headmaster, a keen ornithophile, that three baby Peregrines were born at the end of May 2022.

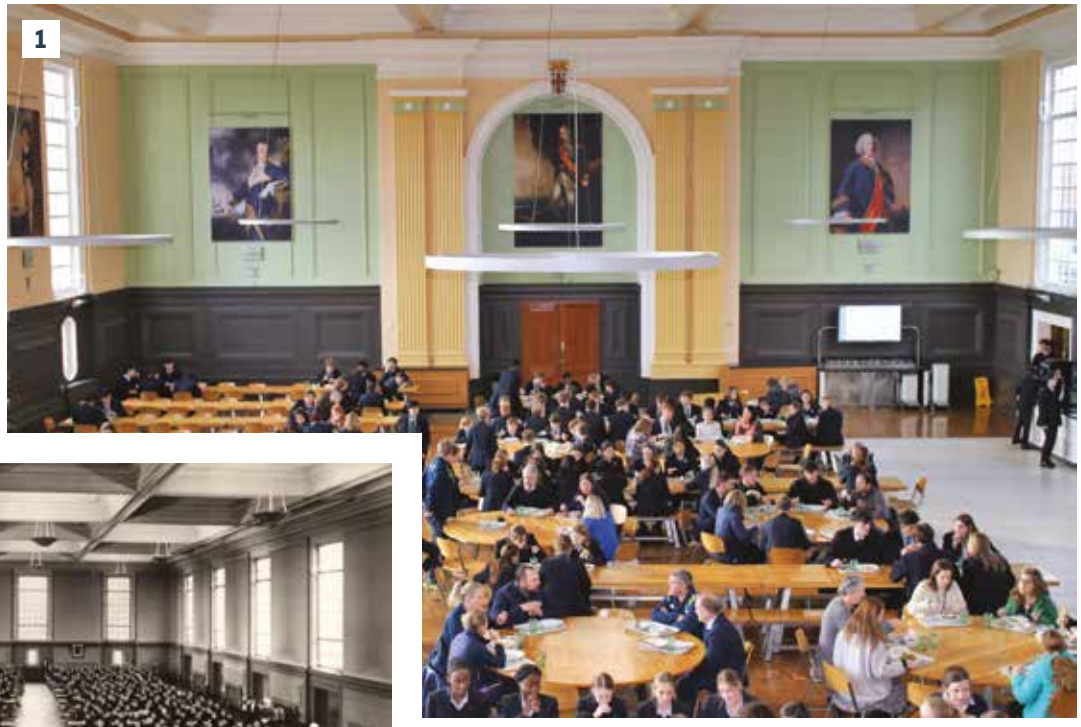
The Clock Tower stands just over 60m tall – 60.35m to be precise – and is also just below the point in height where it would have needed a light on top (60.96m).







1. The Clock Tower today, taken in October 2022.
2. Construction of the Clock Tower in June 1931.
3. The Clock Tower's pinnacle.



1. The current Dining Hall.
2. C.1930, the Dining Hall.
3. The Servery in the 1970s.
4. The current Servery.







The Dining Hall

The Conditions & Instructions to Competing Architects for the Royal Hospital School, produced in 1924, states: "The Dining Hall to have space for 1100 boys, using tables that were 33 inches wide. The Kitchen would be fully equipped complete with cooking apparatus on the same level as the Dining Hall and separated by service lobbies. A scullery and necessary offices. There would be a bread room off the service lobbies for weighing out jam and margarine for the messes, serving bread etc. There is a small gallery above from which grace is spoken."

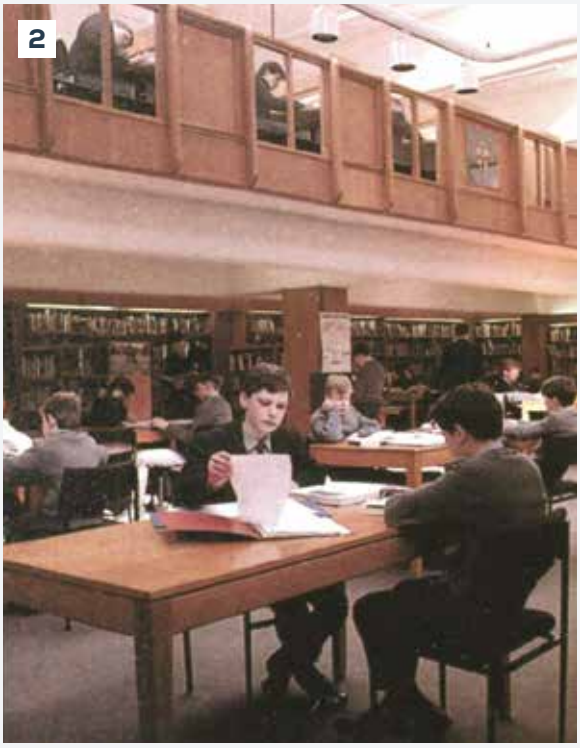
Until 1956 the Dining Hall was controlled by the duty Master, and amid all the noise of clashing plates and cutlery everyone was supposed to be silent when he stood up. So, the then Headmaster, Norman York, who found the noise unbearable, installed a series of red light bulbs around the dining hall. The red lights were used to signal silence, then the collection of plates and cutlery in succession to the PO at the top of the table, and finally the last red light meant the plates could be returned to the kitchen and the next course collected. This system remained in place until 1970 when a cafeteria system was introduced. The school still operates under the cafeteria system, but dining times are staggered with each house allocated a time slot for their meal.

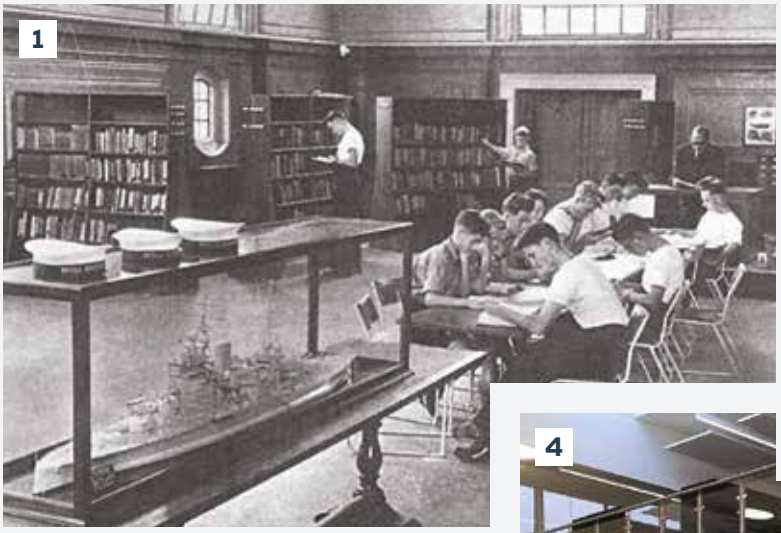
The long refectory tables have now been replaced with a mixture of round tables and refectory tables, and the cafeteria menu is now somewhat different! The dining hall is no longer as large as it was when the School was first designed, as the far end became the Jellicoe Library in 1950.

The Library

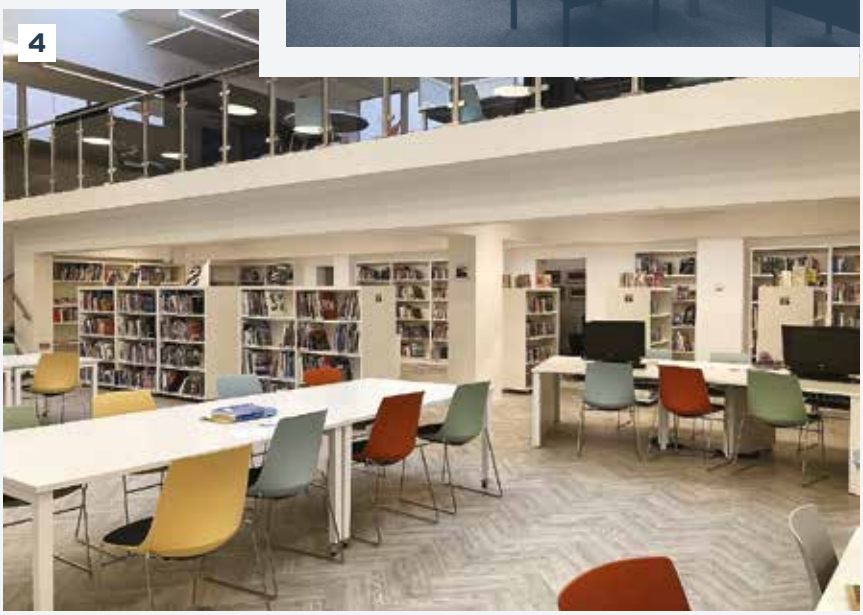
The Library at RHS has seen some changes; it was originally housed in the Jellicoe Room, and the Library Master was supported by pupils to keep everything running. The *1963 School Magazine* invites boys to apply for the role of Library Assistant, and asks that applicants are "dependable, intelligent (must have a thorough understanding of the Decimal System); boundless enthusiasm and energy; even tidier in their habits than their mothers; neat handwriting and ability to do printed capitals a recommendation."

The Library moved to its current location in 1986; more recently, in September 2019, the Richards Library was opened after a full makeover. Most of us know Ruth Gitsham, who has been the school librarian since 1985. She recalls coming to RHS for her interview in 1985, and the Library we know today was just a patch of grass! Ruth spent a year working in the Jellicoe Library, where there was parquet flooring and incredibly high shelves, while the foundations went down and the new facility was built. She tells us the requirements for library volunteers have changed somewhat, too, and really it is just about the willingness to help, there's no handwriting involved. Volunteers come to the Library to support their Duke of Edinburgh Award. It's only happened twice, apparently, but there have been pupils accidentally locked in the Library too!

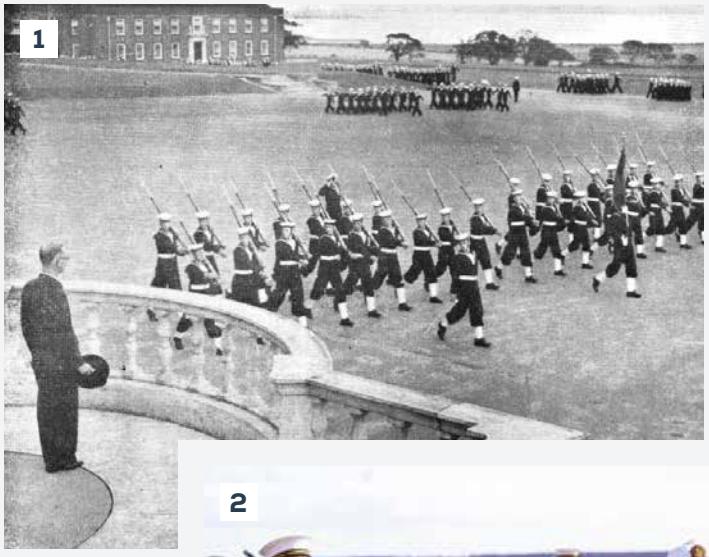








1. The Jellicoe Room.
2&3. School Library, 1996.
4. The Richards Library, 2022.





1. The Guard on parade, Speech Day, 1957.
2. Divisions in 2022.
3. Top: 303 (British) Bolt-Action Rifle. Bottom: L98 A2 Cadet GP Rifle (SA80).
4. The fitness suite in 2022; previously the Roman Catholic Chapel.

5&6. The Gymnasium in 1933.

Divisions

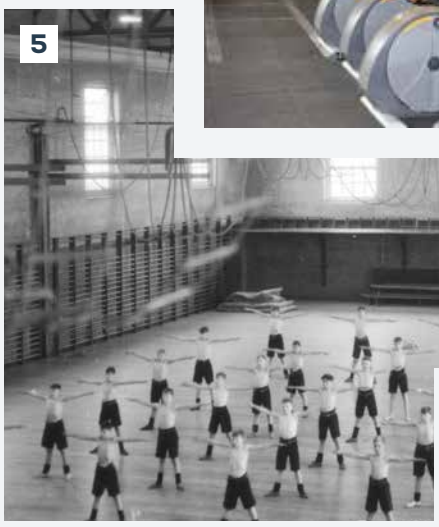
We've kept with tradition here and not changed much at all. A period in the 1990s when girls joined the School saw a mixture of No.1s and Wrens uniform worn on parade, but now all pupils wear No.1s. The Guard's rifles however are different; before the 1980s, Divisions would have seen the Guard using a 303 (British) Bolt-Action Rifle made by Lee-Enfield, which was issued to the British military for both WW1 and WW2, and was complete with a bayonet attachment. For uniformity all members of the guard would have to have been of minimum height. Nowadays the Guard parades with a L98 A2 Cadet GP Rifle (SA80), this is the current weapon used by all UK Cadets, a version of the current in-service issued rifle for the whole of the British military.





The Gymnasium

The biggest changes with the Gym are really to do with the equipment and the sports taking place. Traditionally it was gymnastics, using the ropes and pommel horse. Boys would put on displays both in the Gymnasium and on the parade ground. Now the Gym has changed somewhat, there is a climbing wall installed at one end, and it is used for badminton and basketball.



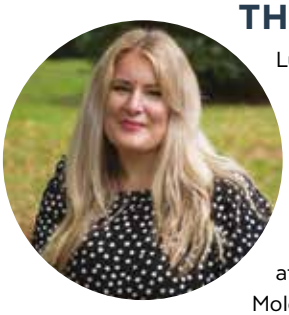


PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH WITH KATIE GOULD IF YOU WOULD LIKE A TOUR (KGOULD@ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG) OR YOU CAN EXPLORE OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVES AT HTTP://RHSARCHIVES.CORTES.WEBSDS.NET/

PIGEON POST

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

THE BIG PICTURE



Lucy Parker (Cornwallis, 2001) wrote to give us an update, telling us she qualified as a primary school teacher in 2006, and although she teaches all areas of the curriculum, her lifelong passion is fine art. It clearly runs in the family - many of you will remember Lucy's father Don Hawkley who was an art teacher at RHS. This year Lucy has been working with the newly refurbished Arlington's in Ipswich, at the original Ipswich Museum site, and in nearby restaurant Moloko – creating two feature walls which would serve as a backdrop for group photos on a night out. More recently, she has also published a children's picture book, *Stink the Sloth*, with her husband Rob; he wrote the words, and she did the illustrations.

You can follow Lucy's Instagram page to see what else she is up to **@pensandpencils83**. Visit **www.stinkthesloth.co.uk** to buy a copy of the book.





THOMAS IS NAVY BOUND

Thomas McNally (Drake, Hawke, 2018) wrote to let us know he graduated in 2021 with a 2:1 in International Relations and Politics BA(Hons), after which he continued his studies at the University of Portsmouth, completing his Masters in August 2022.

Since May 2022, he has been employed by the Rt Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP as a constituency caseworker, which led to him taking an active role in her leadership campaign. Most recently he has been accepted into the Royal Navy, and will start his training at Britannia Royal Naval College in the next year, on his path to becoming a Warfare Officer.



I DO

Natasha Jones (Cornwallis, 2014) let us know that she and Calder Marshall (Raleigh, St Vincent 2014) got married on 12 November 2022 at Gosfield Hall. We wish them all the best for a long and happy future together!





VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT

Holly Horsman (née Hawkley) (Cornwallis, 2005) sent us an update on her career in nursing, which began right after she left RHS, when she studied Adult Nursing at the University of the West of England. "I spent the next few years in operating theatres and A&E, in both Bristol and London, but soon realised my passion was really in public health and health promotion. I worked my way up to Nurse Practitioner within contraception and sexual health services in east London, eventually running a sexual health department in Essex."

After the birth of her first daughter, having moved back to rural Suffolk, Holly went into general practice and worked for four years as a Prescribing Practice Nurse, mostly on contraception and women's health. "During the pandemic I started to do locum work for Suffolk GP Federation, doing COVID vaccines, and I was asked by them to consider working on a Quality Improvement Project looking specifically at cervical screening and health inequality."

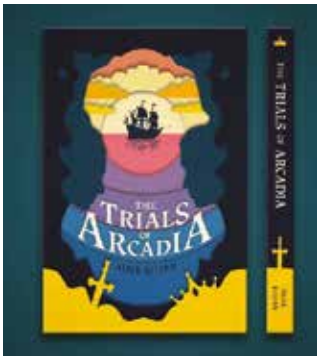
"The project, 'Very Important Invitation', works with GP surgeries to ensure there is a gold standard of practice, as well as voluntary sector organisations supporting anyone with a cervix to access cervical screening in a compassionate and patient-focused way," she continues.

Holly will be returning to RHS to teach on the Year 11 PSHE curriculum shortly. For advice and support on screening just search Very Important Invitation on social media channels including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

ALICE HAS THE WRITE STUFF

Lockdown was a creative and productive time for Alice Kilian (Anson, 2017); she dropped the Alumni and Community Office a line to let us know that she published her first book in November 2021, with the editorial help of another alumnus, Anthony Turner (Howe, 1980), a published author himself. Alice is now writing the second of what she intends to be a trilogy. "*The Trials of Arcadia* is a middle-grade fantasy fiction book," she explains. "I have visited a number of primary and secondary schools as well as libraries to promote my book. The feedback has been fantastic, and on World Book Bay I was invited back to my old primary school. The students had read my book and were dressed up as my characters!" You can buy Alice's book at **www.amazon.co.uk**.





A HOOD BOY RECALLS



Paul Evans, formerly Taylor, (Hood, 1963) wrote to us to share memories of his time at the School and let us know what he's been up to since. He tells us he had much fondness for sport at RHS; he didn't excel academically, but he proudly recalls winning the inaugural Junior Stewart Swimming Cup.

After RHS Paul served an Electrical Engineering Apprenticeship, also achieving a first-class pass in his City & Guilds Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and a short career in Portsmouth Dockyard followed. His soon-to-be wife Kay then tempted him away to work for IBM at Havant, testing mainframe computer systems. Paul's hectic IBM career included assignments to Research and Development in Germany, and management posts in charge of teams supporting European, Middle East and African clients, before he retrained as a management consultant at IBM Belgium.

After a stint running his own business, Paul retired as MD of K2 Computer Solutions and as a magistrate, before he and Kay moved to their 15th century farmhouse in France. Having been happily married for 46 years – cared for by a succession of Jack Russell terriers – the couple are now living in a 16th century thatched cottage on the Isle of Wight, where it is believed Cromwell's troops were billeted while guarding Charles I at Carisbrooke Castle.

Paul tells us he has visited the School a few times since leaving, including once in the 1990s to contribute to the Challenge of Industry 6th Form Conference in his capacity as a manager at IBM, and most recently to attend the funeral of his former housemaster, Bill Curtis, who Paul describes as "a lovely man who supported me through a sad few years at school during family strife."

DANNY SUPPORTS HELP FOR HEROES

Back in June, Danny Collins (Cornwallis, 1993) undertook the Big Battlefield Bike Ride with a group of 150 other riders in support of Help for Heroes. He raised an amazing £3,000 for the charity.



"We rode through Belgium and France along the Western Front of the First World War, starting at Nieuwport, and cycling some 270 miles through the rolling French countryside, to finally arrive at Compiegne, where the Armistice was signed, five days later," Danny tells us. "I met some incredibly inspiring people, and learned of true heroes who were just normal people in the wrong place at the wrong time, undertaking extreme acts of selfless courage."

"The ride was not just to remember the past, this was to know that we all can make a difference today to those who need it," he continues. "That is what the week showed to me, that despite our own problems, when you stand side by side with others, you can become something more."



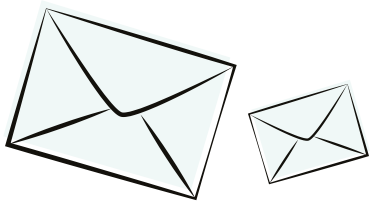


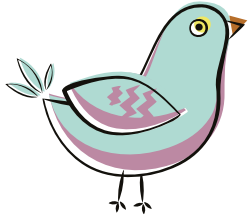
MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Frederick (Fred) Felgate (Cornwallis, 2020) wrote to say that he worked two essential-worker positions during the pandemic. Firstly, for the family business, delivering potatoes to fish and chip shops, then as a Customer Delivery Assistant for Tesco, while still putting in five days a week at the family firm. This hard work proved good preparation for his four-year undergraduate course at the world-renowned Berklee College of Music, located in Boston, MA.

Fred tells us he anticipates graduating a semester early from Berklee, with a BMus in Professional Music, and he is then planning to move to California to work as a recording engineer, freelance mastering engineer, sound designer, EDM producer and DJ, and professional guitarist. You can find more on Fred and his work at **https://linktr.ee/lushiceuk** and **https://linktr.ee/rick.f_guitar**.







A BIG BANG

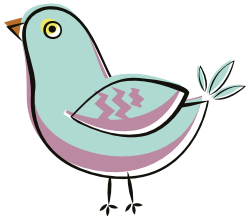
We're always keen to find out about the careers in which our alumni have made a name for themselves, but when Alastair Wray (Drake, 1972) emailed to tell us about one of his latest projects we were fascinated! Alastair's company, Smoking Boots, specialises in the design and manufacture of special effects systems, pyrotechnics and professional firework equipment.

"I recently made a replica machine gun for Roger Waters (formerly the bass player from Pink Floyd) for his tour of North America, This is Not a Drill. The gun works by mixing oxygen and propane and ignites it ten times a second, making seriously loud bangs," he says. Find out more about Alastair's work at **www.smokingboots.co.uk**.



A SOUTHERLY MOVE

Mike Hedges (Hood, 1990) emailed to say he has moved from Birmingham to Crediton, Devon, where he will continue working as a primary school teacher. He wonders if there are any Old Boys from his RHS era anywhere nearby – please contact the Alumni and Community Office if you would like to be put in touch.





UP, UP AND AWAY

Richard Sharrocks (Hawke, 1988) contacted the Alumni and Community Office to update us on his high-flying career. After eight years as an officer in the Army (including Captain of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Tower of London and Windsor Castle; Platoon Commander in the KINGS Regiment; helicopter pilot in the Army Air Corps; team leader in the OSCE Mission to Kosovo; and the Aviation Staff Officer for NATO Forces in Bosnia), Richard qualified as a commercial pilot, flying for airlines in the UK, Abu Dhabi and Suriname. After a brief stint working for IATA, he is now managing the training department of a national airline in the Middle East and flies as a Captain/Instructor Pilot (TRI) on Boeing 777 and 787 aircraft. "Home is ostensibly Northumberland, however I am currently living in Cyprus with my wife, Julie and our two children," he tells us. "I stay fit running, cycling and walking and enjoy spending time behind a camera taking photos of my travels or practising archery."

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

Philip Henderson (Hood, 1963) has let us know his new opera – *Giacomo's Muse* – will be premiering in the US in May 2023. As we write this, Philip is heading out to New York for the first read-through, and he tells us that a UK production is now on the horizon, which may well be filmed.



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

HAWKE BOYS REUNITE

Duncan Sharrocks (Hawke, 1986) let us know that he arranged a (mostly) Hawke reunion back in the summer, meeting up with Alan Thornhill, Jeremy Rocket, James Rocket, Keith Wood, Neil Wood, Shaun Wood, Jonathan Porter and Toby Daniel, along with Jonathan Ralph (Howe), as well as former teacher of French Maggie Good and her two sons Iain and Niall. “My idea was to bring together people that would know each other well but who hadn’t seen each other since school in many cases,” he explains. “We met for lunch in Covent Garden and then for evening drinks at the Victory Services Club.”









SMARTENED UP

We are delighted to be able to tell you that after many years of being exposed to the elements on Clarence Esplanade in Southsea, and suffering somewhat as a result, the old plaques on the RHSA Memorial Bench have been replaced. “They were made and installed free of charge by our sponsor Signs and Lines in Camberley, so a big thank you to Mike, Cat and Jourdan for doing this,” says Nick Gill (Collingwood, 1998), Membership Secretary of the RHSA.



ABBIE IS DESTINED FOR BRNC

Abbie Sykes (Howe, 2019) recently graduated with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering from Solent University. Throughout her time at university she was sponsored by the Royal Navy’s Technical Bursary Scheme for the role of Air Engineer Officer. Abbie tells us she is looking forward to beginning training at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in September.



THE GREENWICH PROJECT

Brian Gatward (Cornwallis, 1968) has been painstakingly transcribing RHS pupil records into digital form since November 2019. "Mark Lucas initially proposed creating a spreadsheet of old Greenwich Boys, so we might be able to trace anyone 100 years old, but with Lucy Pembroke's support the project expanded into a searchable database," Brian explains. "The main challenges are the style of writing and faded ink or smudged pencil. Using my trusty magnifying glass, I have captured over 13,000 boys' names to date, with more to be done!"



HAWKE BOYS CLUB TOGETHER

You may remember from our last issue, a number of Hawke boys get together annually for a golf challenge, taking turns to host. Bob Allaway (Hawke, 1965) hosted this year's event, held at Weybrook Park Golf Club in Basingstoke, which was attended by Alan Deadman (Hawke, 1965), Peter McKenzie (Hawke, 1966) and Arthur Merchant (Hawke, 1970) – with Jim Wright (Hawke, 1963) tagging along to officiate the tricky decisions (like sausage or bacon in the rolls).

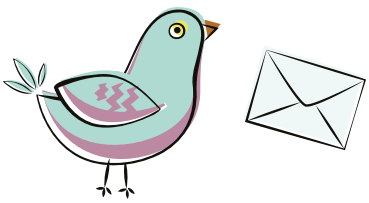
Bob established a three-point lead after nine holes, but Peter drew level with three holes to play. However, a stronger finish by Bob ensured the victory with 34 Stableford points. Alan and Arthur carded the same number of points to be tied third. Next year's event will be hosted by Arthur at Crane Valley Golf Club, near Verwood. Any ex-Hawke golfers are very welcome, contact the Alumni and Community Office if you would like to join in.

Left to right: Peter McKenzie, Jim Wright, Bob Allaway, Alan Deadman, Arthur Merchant.



A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

This autumn Jack Morelli (Hawke, 2013) began studying postgraduate Medicine at Warwick University. To prepare, he went into the Army as a Combat Medical Technician for four years where he passed P Company, gaining his jump wings, and served with 3 Para in the Parachute Regiment. Prior to this, when he first left RHS, Jack gained a history degree from the University of Bristol, and spent two years volunteering in Uganda and Greece.





HONOURS FOR SIMON

Simon Tripp (Raleigh, 1988) sent us news of his inclusion in the 2022 New Year's Honours list; he was presented with his Meritorious Service Medal by the Second Sea Lord in May this year.

Simon completed 32 years' regular service in the Royal Marines Band Service in July 2020, having reached the position of Corps Bandmaster (Senior Warrant Officer), before moving to a full-time Reserve position in the Royal Naval Careers Service. His medal was awarded in respect of his RMBS Service.

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

RHS BAND MEMORIES

Steve Harpum (Collingwood, 1976) wrote to tell us he has very fond memories of playing in the School Band in the days when Mr 'Bandy' Buckingham was the Bandmaster. "I believe he was a retired Royal Marine Bandmaster and to me he will always be one of the RHS greats," says Steve. "One year (I want to say 1973), we played at the Earls Court Royal Tournament (we were the 'warm up act'). Mr Buckingham got every single boy who could get a note out of an instrument involved and I've never forgotten it – or him."

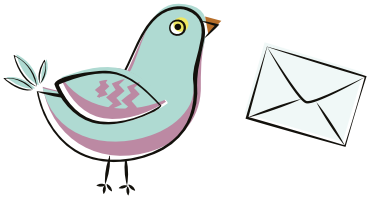
Steve wonders if anyone out there remembers him and would like to get in touch; please contact the Alumni and Community Office and we will make it happen!





IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Mark Hunter (Nelson, 1983) wrote to tell us he bumped into Richard Cantelo (Collingwood, 1983) for the first time in 39 years over the summer. Mark was at work at Barclays Plymouth, and Richard was in Plymouth working at Derriford Hospital. Small world!





THE BEAT GOES ON

How many of you resurrected your RHS-era hobbies during lockdown? Steve Carroll (Hood, 1990) certainly did, and he wrote to let us know. "In my upper-sixth year I had a small role as 'rehearsal drummer' for School rock band Strange Love. I say small role, I had very little experience and skill but nevertheless I stepped in when the band's much-younger drummer couldn't make a practice session," he tells us. "Around 30 years later, lockdown boredom made me think back to how much I loved the drums. I decided to buy a cheap e-kit, sign up for online lessons, and take it up again. Two years later I have formed a band with some good friends and, very proudly, played my first ever gig (at my own rock-themed 50th birthday party but hey, a gig's a gig)!"





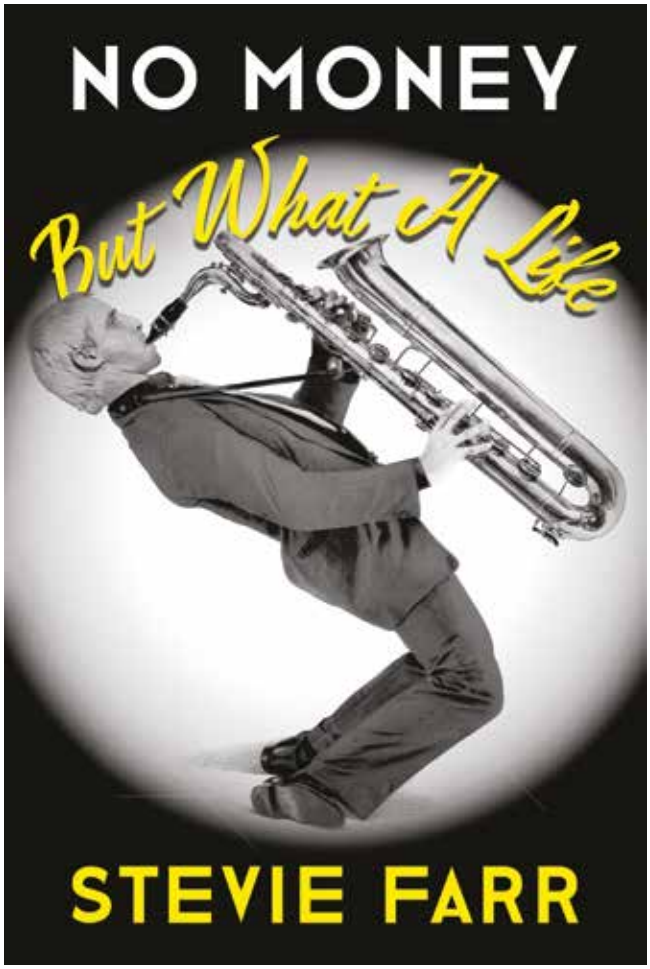
REACHING FOR THE STARS



Reverend Andrew Dotchin (Collingwood, 1974) dropped us a line to share with us news about his trip to the Royal International Air Tattoo. "Despite being a Navy brat, I seem to spend much of my time as Chaplain to Felixstowe Air Cadets. This summer that meant spending an intense week under canvas at the Bomb Dump on the edges of RAF Fairford, with the 800 Air Cadets who help make the three days of the Royal International Air Tattoo a success," he explains.

"For the Cadets long days in the hot sun – full of often thankless tasks such as leafletting and litter picking – were followed by only slightly cooler evenings. Our Wellbeing Team spent time caring for the emotional needs that come with young people moving into adulthood. It was long, it was complicated, it was hard sometimes tearful work, but such a privilege," he continues. "There is something very special about supporting a group of youngsters determined to do the right thing and become the best person they can be. The future is in safe hands."

And in the icing on the cake? "It's a hard life having to watch the Red Arrows practise and then put on their display for five days in a row, but someone has to do it!"

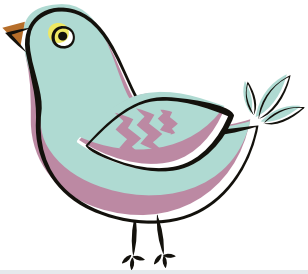


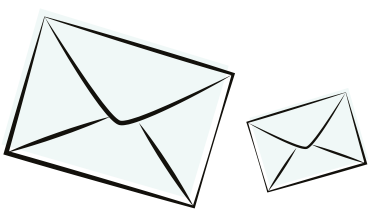
ROCK AND ROLL REMINISCING

We hear from many alumni who discovered their love of music at RHS, and a number who have made it their career. Steve Farr (Cornwallis, 1965) can certainly be counted in that number, and he went on to work with greats such as Paul McCartney, The Everly Brothers, Rod Stewart, The Temptations, Chuck Berry, BB King and many more.

He has a new book coming out in January 2023, about growing up and going into the music business. "I had a bit of a rocky start, but my mum put me into RHS and I loved it there," he tells us. "The stories in the book shows it wasn't easy in the '60s, punishments were long and painful. But it was also where my love of music was born, when me and three others formed the School's very first group. After leaving RHS I became a London Mod, and from there it was college, then rock and roll, women and fun!"

You can find out more about Steve's book, and order a copy, at his publisher's website **www.bookguild.co.uk**.





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

PASS IT ON

LAUNCHING 100 LIVES
CENTENNIAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN

MAINTAINING OUR PHILANTHROPIC PURPOSE

AS MANY OF YOU WILL KNOW, OURS WAS ORIGINALLY A SCHOOL ENTIRELY FUNDED BY THE GREENWICH HOSPITAL TRUST, TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR BOYS WHO WOULD THEN GO ON TO BE SEAFARERS.

But times change, and not only do girls now make up roughly half of our student population, but the proportion of pupils with a seafaring connection has dropped. However, we still want to maintain our ability to offer an RHS education to young people from a wide variety of backgrounds. To do this, we need help: our Centennial Bursary Campaign has been designed to ensure we can offer more bursary-supported places at RHS.

The wonderful thing about RHS is how, for decades, it has bought together a diverse selection of young people. Aside from the original requirement to have a seafaring connection, young people were not judged on background, or their social status; officers' sons sat alongside ratings' boys at one time. After the lifting of the seafaring stipulation, an even wider variety of families, from all walks of life, have been able to access an RHS education, which we all know is about more than academic skills.



RHS has a long-standing history of providing bursaries, from the original seafarer bursary supported by Greenwich Hospital to the work we now do with organisations such as the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation, and legacy gifts like the De Neumann Scholarship. Our school is proud to provide bursaries to young people from a wide variety of backgrounds, so they can access the sort of education that will become the foundation for their happiness and success.

This year saw us launch our Centennial Bursary Campaign, a new type of fundraising initiative; we want to 'Launch 100 Lives' by the school's centenary in 2033. This is the first time RHS has fundraised specifically to support bursaries; through the power of giving, and working together, we can ensure that the philanthropic heritage of our school is honoured going forwards.

The official launch of the Centennial Bursary Campaign on 18 November 2022 was a poignant and special evening. We were able to share one of our new campaign videos



with our valued community, including representatives from the RHSA (alumni association), governors, staff, current and former parents, alumni and current pupils. Our Head of Community and Alumni Relations, Lauren Bayliss-Fuller, also shared her own moving story of being able to attend RHS through the support of a bursary, highlighting the power this type of opportunity has to transform a young person's life. The evening was filled with emotion, but was also a celebration of the impact bursaries have; there was plenty of discussion around how we can all be a part of launching 100 lives.

During November we held information events for staff, governors, alumni and parents, as well as holding a whole-school assembly to share the news of the Centennial Bursary Campaign and our Giving Day, which is planned for 26-27 April 2023. For some, these sessions were eye opening, offering the opportunity to really understand what a bursary is, and the life-changing impact it can have on a young person and their future.

At the RHSA AGM, we also shared the story of a recent De Neumann scholar to illustrate the impact of alumnus Bernard de Neumann's wonderful legacy to the school.

At the Alumni and Community Office, we have really appreciated the stories our alumni have shared with us this year, recounting their experiences at RHS, and how a bursary meant they were able to come to the school. Please do continue to share with us your experiences of coming to RHS on a bursary, we will always be pleased to hear from you. You never know, we might ask you to take part in one of our videos, or tell your story in the next issue of Gidge!

We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help us in our efforts, whether that is through volunteering at our fundraising events, taking part in sponsored challenges to raise money for RHSCT (Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust), making a one-off contribution, or becoming one of our regular givers if you feel able – every donation is gratefully received, however small. ■

REAL LIVES, REAL IMPACT

On our campaign web page you will find several compelling videos telling the stories of some of our recent bursary recipients, to illustrate the opportunities that an RHS education can open up for young people.







FIND OUT MORE

Our new 'Launch 100' web page, on the RHS site, feature three videos highlighting the different types of bursaries the school offers, and telling the unique stories of their recipients. Our Headmaster, Simon Lockyer, also talks about the history of bursaries at RHS and the ways you can support our campaign. To find out more about bursaries and how to support our fundraising campaign, please visit our website: www.royalhospitalschool.org/about/launch100

TOGETHER WE CAN LAUNCH 100 LIVES.

You can only rely on yourself

Tom Blackett *(Drake, 2008) talks to* ***Lauren Bayliss-Fuller*** *about his career in the fitness industry, and the way he walks his professional talk by undertaking ultra-marathons of up to 100 miles.*

CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE OF YOUR RHS STORY?

I left in 2008, having boarded from Year 9 through to Year 13. As some people will know, my dad was the headmaster between 2003 and 2011, though I actually joined a year before he took up the role. RHS is a unique place! It may not be for everyone but I really enjoyed the full boarding experience, and the range of extracurricular options, of course I was very active in sports and I'm quite musical as well.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CAREER JOURNEY TO DATE, DID YOU ALWAYS INTEND TO WORK IN FITNESS?

I have always been keen on sport, so going to Edinburgh University to get a sports degree was a natural step. I joined the fitness industry straight afterwards and then started PT-ing in 2013. It's not difficult to qualify as a personal trainer, but you have to have a USP of some sort to differentiate yourself, so I figured I would have a go at some extreme running events. I entered my first ultra in 2016 – 100 miles in one day – and I actually failed. I got to about 80 miles and my body completely gave way. So, I have been training hard, working up to that distance.

NOW PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT'S YOUR USP, DO YOU STILL ENJOY EXTREME RUNNING, OR DO YOU JUST KEEP GOING BECAUSE YOUR BUSINESS REQUIRES IT?

I guess it's a mixture of the two. It is partly about maintaining that edge, attracting and retaining customers, and acting as a role model for my clients – I like to think



they will push themselves harder if they can see me walking the talk. Making videos about my races is also a good way to make sure I'm getting in front of my target market through social media.

On a personal level, there's no better test than an ultra-marathon. It's very good for building self-confidence. You can't sleaze or brown-nose your way to the finish – you can only rely on yourself, so when you get to the finish, there's no better feeling. That said, sometimes it's quite difficult to explain exactly why I do it, especially when I'm halfway through a race. I must say, when you're running for 20 hours plus, you do go a little bit crazy!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU ARE RUNNING?

I think about all sorts of things. A recurring thought is 'why am I doing this?!' It's really important to have the right mindset before you run, because no matter how experienced you are you will get to a point where it is totally horrendous. Ultra-running is not good for your body. For me, because ultra-running is my USP, that's a real driving force – I want to be one of the best at my job. I often also think about how great it feels to finish.

DO YOU SET OUT TO WIN, OR IS IT MORE ABOUT BEATING YOUR OWN PERSONAL TIMES?

It's basically just about finishing! That said, having spent the last few years doing more of these ultra-races, I am becoming more competitive. But if I start out thinking 'I'm going to smash this!', it's a recipe for failure, given how long the races are. I would like to improve my finishing place over the next three years, and I'm on track to do that.

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

Firstly, don't blame anyone else for anything; you're your own responsibility. I think whatever industry you want to work in, there are five rules to live by: 1) Have a good exercise routine 2) Make sure you sleep well 3) Go easy on yourself if you are tired, it affects mood and productivity 4) Do a job that you enjoy 5) Look at who you surround yourself with – the right support from family and friends is important.

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

That's a great question. I would say, slow down – you have time to figure out what you want to do. And also, not everyone has to like you, find the right crowd that has your back. ■

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TOM'S WORK AT WWW.TOMBLACKETTFITNESS.COM AND WWW.THEFITNESSPROJECT.CLUB, AND FOLLOW HIS ULTRA ADVENTURES VIA SOCIAL MEDIA: @TOM_BLACKETTPT ON INSTAGRAM, AND @TOMBLACKETT9559 ON YOUTUBE.





Behind the scenes: Keeping RHS clean, one load at a time

LAUREN BAYLISS-FULLER MEETS THE RHS LAUNDRY TEAM, AND HAS HER EYES OPENED BY JUST HOW MANY LOADS GET DONE EVERY DAY!

Susanne, Kim, Ann, Vanessa, Janice and Susan have between them racked up more than 125 years of working in the RHS laundry – and Susanne has been with RHS for the majority of her career, an impressive 37 years. I ask her how much things had changed since she first started, and surprisingly it's not actually very much. "Four years ago we got new machines, which has made a big impact, they're much bigger and they have the detergent automatically fed to them, whereas previously we used to use laundry powder which we added by hand," she explains. The washing machines aren't exactly what you'd find in the average home, either, they're huge industrial appliances, taking loads of up to 299kg.



> "...unusual items found in pockets include toast and a burger!

100 YEARS OF KEEPING UNIFORMS INSPECTION-READY

I'm keen to find out what a typical day in the laundry involves, a whole century on from when the department was first built and fitted out. "The machines start at 6.30am and they're on and running until 5pm, with around 20 loads done each day," Susanne reveals. "We sort the laundry as it comes in, spray anything that's stained, then wash, dry and iron everything."

What surprises me is the variety of garments, bedding, and other textiles that goes through the laundry, including school uniform; duvets and pillows; No.1s; Chapel robes and cloths; linen from catering, such as table cloths and napkins, chefs whites and staff uniforms; even horse blankets (now we have an equestrian team and provision for students to bring their horses with them when they board).

SERVING THE RHS COMMUNITY

What's less well-known is that there's a dry-cleaning service available to staff, who are able to pay for items like suits, shirts and blazers to be cleaned – a throwback to when RHS was conceived as a completely self-sufficient community. I even spot a pet bed going through the laundry service, and I'm told that among the unusual items found in pockets have been toast and even a burger!

The laundry department staff are friends both in and out of the workplace – for example, they can often be found together, supporting Ipswich Town on match days – and while I was visiting them, they spent some time reminiscing. "My partner Phillip was a driver at RHS, and we lived on site for 30 years; I can clearly remember the days when the school was full boarding only, and all boys," Susanne explains. "He passed a few years ago, and our community, the school and my colleagues, were all so supportive to me." Ann nods, agreeing that both the laundry department and the wider school is a community that serves all its members: "it's a friendly place, and every day is different."



IN NUMBERS

- There are four washing machines each taking up to 299kg loads
- There are four dryers
- At least 20 loads of laundry washed per day
- Machines run for 10.5 hours a day
- Each team member averages 9,000 steps per day at work







Opposite page, above: The old washing machines, prior to the 2018 upgrade.
Opposite page, below: Vanessa, Susanne, Janice and Ann.
Top: Everyone agrees the laundry is a friendly place to work.
Above: Our new high-specification washing machines installed in 2018.
Above left: Crisply pressed No.1s are a point of pride for the laundry team.
Left: The newly built laundry in the 1950s.

A FOND FAREWELL



DAVID TROWERN
(Nelson, 1974)

David was in Nelson House from 1969 to 1974 and is probably best remembered by members of his cohort as a fine cross-country runner. He won the Junior School Championship in 1971, setting a new school record, and represented Suffolk in the National Schools Championship in 1972, '73 and '74.

On leaving RHS he attended technical college in Bath, gaining ONC and HNC qualifications in electrical engineering, both with distinction. He then went to work for GEC Marconi in Portsmouth, and was an early pioneer in the development of the first generation of in-flight entertainment systems for long-haul aircraft.

After leaving Marconi he worked for several other companies as a software engineer, relocating to Seattle in 1991 for work, where his family still lives to this day. He joined Amazon in the early 2000s when it was still a fledgling company, and remained there until his retirement in 2018.

Unfortunately, David had a stroke in January 2021 and was then diagnosed with neuro-endocrine cancer in February this year. Having initially been given up to 10 years to live this was revised to six months in July, but ultimately and tragically he went much more quickly than expected, in September 2022.

He leaves behind his wife of 42 years, Lynne, as well as his two children, and two grandchildren.



DEREK JOHN MCLEOD HOLMES
(Nelson, 1974)

Derek attended RHS from 1969 to 1974; he was born in Portsmouth and his father had been a Royal Navy Officer, his childhood included several years living in Singapore and Malta. Derek was known to friends and family as kind, caring, loyal and having a loving nature. He donated endlessly to causes supporting and caring for animals.

Derek had a passion for history, particularly exploring old forts and battlefields, but he it was his deep passion for writing that led him to become an author of five novels, writing under the name John McLeod. His books focused on chronicling the life of Alexander the Great and he prided himself on historical accuracy. He would travel throughout Europe and the Middle East to research the content of his books.

For nearly 25 years Derek worked at FM Global. At his time of passing he was the Principal Application Developer/ Analyst and had responsibility for developing and supporting the critical financial insurance applications. Although originally based in London, in 2000 Derek moved to Rhode Island, USA.

Derek passed away unexpectedly on 5 March 2022; he had been bravely fighting cancer since November 2021. Derek will be missed by many and those attending his funeral were invited to celebrate his life by wearing bright colours, and in lieu of flowers donations were made to animal charities and shelters.



LESLIE REGINALD HARRY HANKS
(Cornwallis, 1940)

The Alumni and Community Office received the news of the passing of Les Hanks when a friend, Mr Williams, informed the school of Les's wishes for RHS to have his medals, including the Veterans Star, for the RHS Archive.

Les's father was killed at the Battle of Jutland, and in 1936 Les joined RHS. In 1940 he went to HMS Ganges, joining HMS St George. After training as a telegraphist on the Isle of Man, he was drafted to Singapore – where his ship was instructed to surrender. The crew persuaded the captain to leave port, so the ship sailed to Java, where Les's adventures to return to the UK started. He trekked for two months through the Malaysian jungle, and travelled across India by train, finally reaching the British naval base in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, by stealing a boat. He returned to the UK and was drafted on HMS Warspite, where he took part in D-Day.

Les was married to Jean, his wife for 74 years, having met in a Savoy Ballroom at Southsea in Hampshire. They were experts in the 'jitterbug' and won the Portsmouth Championships together. They were a devoted couple who fell ill together, and both succumbed to COVID-19 within two days of each other, in February 2021.

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:

PETER ANSTEY
(Cornwallis, 1946) October 2021

PETER CARTER ARMSTRONG
(Raleigh, 1974) December 2021

DAVID FREDERICK BAGWELL
(Raleigh, 1955) May 2021

JASON PAUL BEDFORD
(Cornwallis, 1991) November 2021

PETER DUNCAN BENNY
(Howe, 1965) January 2022

GRANT BLACKBURN
(Cornwallis, 1987) July 2021

IAN WILLIAM BOATMAN
(St Vincent, 1962) May 2022

PETER MICHAEL BRANT
(Cornwallis, 1949) July 2021

JAMES FREDERIC BUDGEN
(Drake, 1946) January 2022



ROBIN PIELE BURGESS
(Anson, 1964) March 2022

RICHARD GEORGE BUSTIN
(Drake, 1953) January 2022

CHARLES JAMES COLE
(Hood, 1946) March 2022

DAVID HORACE COLWILL
(Nelson, 1957) January 2022

WILLIAM JOHN COTTENHAM
(Raleigh, 1953) April 2022

RONALD MICHAEL CUSWORTH
(Blake, 1959) August 2021

WILLIAM FREDERICK JAMES DIBBENS
(Nelson, 1945) June 2022

WILLIAM ERNEST DUNSTAN
(Hood, 1943) February 2022

SHERIDAN WALTER FITZGERALD
(Anson, 1958) January 2022

PATRICK ARTHUR HAMMOND
(St Vincent, 1947) January 2021

LESLIE REGINALD HARRY HANKS
(Cornwallis, 1940) February 2021

WILLIAM JOHN HARLEY
(Drake, 1955) November 2021

ALBERT GEORGE HAWKEY
(Hawke, 1944) January 2021

JOHN HAWKINS
(Raleigh, 1956) July 2021

STEPHEN PETER HOGDEN
(Cornwallis, 1965) April 2022

DEREK JOHN MCLEOD HOLMES
(Nelson, 1974) March 2022

IAN RALPH GEORGE HUNT
(Drake, 1963) March 2022

STUART IRVINE
(St Vincent, 1992) November 2022

ANTHONY THEODORE JANKU
(Howe, 1958) January 2022

ERIC JONES
(Anson, 1959) April 2022

JEFFREY KANE
(Blake, 1963) August 2021

NEIL STEWART MACKINNON
(Raleigh, 1963) April 2022

RONALD PHILIP MCIVOR
(Hawke, 1953) October 2021

MICHAEL MOSS
(Hood, 1972) February 2022

STUART ROGER PARKINS
(Blake, 1962) May 2022

STANLEY IVAN RAYNER
(Blake, 1942) April 2022

KENNETH ROLAND READ
(Blake, 1947) August 2021

DAVID JOHN ROBBINS
(Hood, 1963) October 2021

COLIN ROWBOTHAM
(Cornwallis, 1950) January 2021

TERENCE JOHN ROWE
(Anson, 1948) June 2022

DAVID GEORGE SHEPPARD
(Nelson, 1950) June 2022

BRIAN VICTOR STEPHENS
(Collingwood, 1954) August 2021

GORDON ROBERT TAYLOR
(Howe, 1974) November 2021

DAVID TROWERN
(Nelson, 1974) September 2022



Here be dragons

His first proper visit to the School in 52 years, in May 2022, prompted Anthony Cousins (Howe, 1970) to write to us and tell us his RHS story.

I joined the School in September 1966, a shy lad in a big place, and I was lonely. My father, a Navy Chief Petty Officer, had taken the family to very hot, dry and very sandy Bahrain three months before, then brought me back and deposited me at a very windy, wet and cold Holbrook school.

Needless to say I didn't fare well. I was homesick, I was scared, and I always seemed to have to face some fear or other, very difficult for an 11-year-old who was 4,000 miles away from his parents. Thankfully I was placed in Howe, with a very progressive housemaster, Mr Carl Saunders, who became almost a surrogate father to me and took me under his wing.

With his help I became a bit of an athlete. I was in the house athletics (a 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 metre runner), cross country and football teams, and gradually came out of my shell. Education was a bit of a mystery, until my third year, when suddenly I got it. From the lower reaches of Class 1b1, and 2b1, I slowly improved, then in 3b1 I came second in class and was moved to 4a. Education may not have been my forte, but I learned how to learn, and enjoyed it, something that stood me in good stead in years to come. My two brothers were in Howe, Doug and Michael. Later, my eldest daughter Lisa came (although against my wishes), and became Head of Howe.

I left RHS in the summer of 1970 at the end of my fourth year, to join the Army. Trading navy blue for khaki and going from wearing shorts to carrying a gun in a matter of months. It was not one of my better decisions in life.

After the Army I had various jobs, more to keep food on the table than anything else. In 1983 I found myself single again. I used my School-inspired love of learning to start again. I taught myself computer programming, found I had a bit of knack for it, and went back to college to get a qualification and become a programmer. A few years on I branched out on my own with my new wife, and we set up a computer support company. We did quite well all through the millennium bug times and after. After some health issues we gave it up. Yet again my love of learning caused a change in direction, and I became a social worker – a job I loved, and stayed in till I retired.

I had never been back to RHS in 52 years, except for the odd times we took Lisa out, but that was case of go in and get her speedily, then a quick drop off afterwards. The place filled me with fear, because of the bad memories of what I went through as a young boy. On old maps when referring to the unknown or dangerous the phrase 'here be dragons' is used, and this had been how I viewed RHS since 1970.

Having talked to other Old Boys of the around the same era on Facebook, whose memories were very similar to mine, it made me realise I wasn't alone in my feelings. So it was time to go back.

We were met by Katie Gould, Community & Alumni Relations Executive, who was kind enough to show us around. We had lunch and the memories came back, stuff that had been buried for years, both good and bad. The place was different, yet somehow the same. Walking through the school corridors there seemed to be a few ghosts of the past, but mostly it was young people doing similar things to what I did years ago, with bright futures ahead of them. I'm not a religious person, but going into the Chapel was the most moving experience, it still felt that place of calm and safety it did all those years ago.

The demons of the past are not completely gone, I'm not sure they ever will be, but I feel better and more relaxed about visiting the old place. I'm no longer scared of the school. I wish I'd had the courage to go back sooner, but I've done it now and I will be back again. This time I won't leave it 52 years. ■

Above left: Back in May, Tony made his first proper visit to RHS since he left in 1970, and his old boarding house was a particular highlight.
Above right: Tony, second from right, during inspection by Speech Day 1967 Guest of Honour Mr J.P.W. Mallalieu MP, Minister of State, Board of Trade.

LOOKING BACK

RHS ARCHIVE

10 YEARS AGO
2012

25 YEARS AGO
1997

50 YEARS AGO
1972

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL TRAFALGAR NIGHT

In our tercentenary year, 320 guests attended a spectacular RHS300 Trafalgar Night Dinner where they were greeted at the entrance to the Dining Hall by flaming torches, and the sound of seagulls and waves breaking. The doors then opened



to reveal an impressive two-metre-high ice sculpture of Nelson's Column. Guest of Honour, Rear Admiral Woodcock, Naval Secretary and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, gave a speech and toast to Lord Nelson, before the assembled guests sang sea shanties including 'Drunken Sailor' and rousing songs such as 'Land of Hope and Glory'. The evening concluded with a sunset ceremony.

FAMOUS FACES BOWLED OVER BY RHS

During the summer term, comedian Griff Rhys Jones captained a team of celebrities – including Hugh Laurie, Angus Deayton, Jeff Banks and Richard E. Grant – to raise funds for the St Elizabeth Hospice and Home Farm Trust. More than 4,500 spectators witnessed the showbiz team battle against the RHS XI, which was led by former Essex and England cricketer Don Topley.





Other personalities who attended included Samantha Janus, Jeff Banks, Julia Carling, Angus Deayton and the irrepressible Clive Anderson whose commentary enlivened the afternoon. The result? The RHS Sporting XI scored 101-8, while the celebrity team finished on 101-9. Match tied! The event raised £8,000.

COUNTY-LEVEL SUCCESS FOR THE GYMNASTICS SQUAD

The RHS gymnastics squad had a very satisfying year in 1972. They dominated the Suffolk Schools Gymnastic Championships by coming first, second, third and fourth in the over 15s, second and third in the under 15s, and fourth and fifth in the under 13s. Out of the 11 competitors from RHS, six were chosen to represent Suffolk at the Eastern Region School's Gymnastic Championships which was then held at the School.



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