

# GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR  
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



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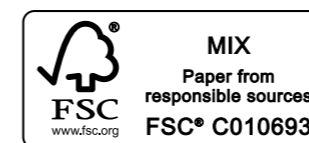
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Cover photo: General Sir Jim Hockenhull  
KBE ADC Gen (Raleigh, 1982) Inspecting  
Officer for Remembrance Divisions 2023.



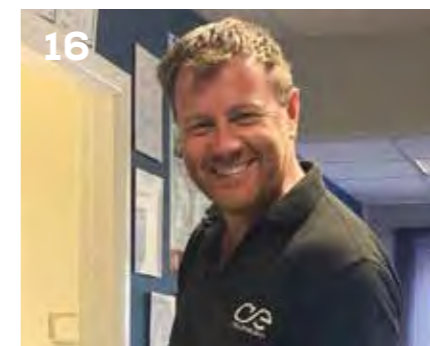
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# Welcome

As I start to prepare to move on from RHS to my next headship, I'm delighted to have been asked to write the welcome message for this issue of *Gidge*. By the time the next one is under way, I will have become part of the RHS community in an entirely different capacity – I will have joined your ranks, the ranks of former staff and pupils who hold the School in life-long high regard and affection.

I must confess, I hadn't always seen the School in such a positive way. "Would you be interested in the role of Head at The Royal Hospital School?" was the question posed to me in 2015.

But about 13 years before that, on my wedding day, as the rain poured down at Woolverstone in the middle of August, I had said flippantly that I would never live in Suffolk. My knowledge of RHS prior to joining had been through reputation and from a distance, having walked around it when visiting my future mother-in-law. By reputation, I knew of its Naval links, I even knew of some of my peers from primary school who had attended, and some had a pretty unhappy time. From a distance, the place looked austere, angular and intimidating, so the prospect of a headship at RHS was not initially enticing.

Now as I enter my final couple of terms at RHS, I am reminded of how grateful I am that I was encouraged to apply and that the Governors placed their trust in me, and gave me the opportunity to be part of this very distinctive and special community. RHS does have magnificent buildings, and from the lofty heights of the clock tower you can get the true sense of the forward-thinking nature of the architects; a school built with a real sense of purpose. But as anyone will attest, the School is more than the buildings, at RHS it is a place that has, for good and sometimes for bad, shaped lives. It is a community where pupils and staff and their families live and work together, it is a school that gets under your skin.

Over eight years, I have seen successive year groups leave, only to return for Remembrance. I have heard time and time again of the number of alumni who have ended up in flats together, and I have seen the strength of bonds of old acquaintances reunited. I can see the value in the friendships forged through shared experiences in houses, on games fields, on stages, in bands and on the parade ground. I also see the inspiration that alumni provide to those at RHS, and the value that comes from the global network that is continuing to grow and strengthen.

It is therefore an immense pleasure and honour to be writing this welcome for the *Gidge*, a magazine that was introduced to capture some of what is happening at RHS, but more significantly to share in the many successes and stories of the alumni. My thanks to the editorial team and to all the contributors for another fantastic edition, we hope you enjoy it.



**SIMON LOCKYER,**  
HEADMASTER, ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

# A reflection on the past year



Above: Toby Chavasse (Collingwood, 2023) and Isabella Bunnag (Raleigh, 2023).

It's quite nostalgic for us to come back together to write this short piece after having had a few months away from RHS. During our time in Year 13, we spent hours writing speeches and making rotas – mainly to avoid revising for our A levels! So it's quite nice that we are able to write this for old time's sake.

We both feel so lucky that we were able to have a normal year to end our school careers after so much disruption lower down the school. Both of us had forgotten just how busy a full RHS year can be. A highlight for us was the return of the House Shout competition after a two-year hiatus.

For us, this event showed just how strong people's house spirit is, and despite a dose of healthy competition it was incredible to see the support everyone gave to each other. Although Year 13 pupils were given the opportunity to perform with Nelson, everyone felt so strongly about going back to perform with their previous houses, which highlighted just

how connected people are with their original houses. Even now, as alumni, we will always be a Collingwood boy and a Raleigh girl.

That being said, the thing we miss most from our last year at RHS is the chaos of Nelson house, whether it's the 50 people crowding round the table tennis table, the multiple kilos of pasta cooked after prep, or the racing back house at break time to avoid the mile-long tuck shop queue.



Year 13 is a really strange year because you are preparing for the hardest and most important exams that you have had to sit, and you are constantly being asked what you want to do with your life. It's also the year of everyone's 18th parties, Trafalgar Night, Burns Night and also the reminder that this is your final year with all those friends you have been with since you first joined RHS.

For any other alumni reading this, we're sure you can also remember the struggle of trying to balance finishing all your prep on time, getting to hockey training, and finding that perfect outfit for Traf! These do seem to be common threads over the years and decades.

Having had some time away from RHS now, we obviously look back fondly on those big events. However, it's the little things that we will perhaps miss most: getting a "Morning sweetie!" from Matron before breakfast, or belting out *Jerusalem* at the top of our lungs in chapel. In a way, it is perhaps these smaller things that will stick with us most.

**WRITTEN BY ISABELLA BUNNAG (RALEIGH, 2023) AND TOBY CHAVASSE (COLLINGWOOD, 2023) 2023 HEADS OF SCHOOL.**



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR ROB

'PURPOSE, PASSION, PERSEVERANCE' IS THE MOTTO OF CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ROB BONIWELL (RALEIGH, 1989), AND IT HAS BEEN PROVEN TO SERVE HIM WELL; BACK IN JANUARY HE WAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM) 2023. GIVEN ON AUSTRALIA DAY, THE AWARD RECOGNISES ROB'S BRAVERY AND COMMITMENT IN THE FACE OF DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.

Rob has demonstrated exemplary service to his community for over 28 years (11 in the UK and 17 in Australia). He joined



the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) in 2006 as a Senior Operational Fire and Rescue Officer, and is regularly deployed to operational command roles to coordinate and control large-scale bushfire events, as well as other emergency responses including floods, cyclones and hazardous incidents.

He has demonstrated excellence in frontline

service delivery through multiple avenues and for several major disaster events as a Specialist Rescue Swiftwater and Urban Search and Rescue Technician. He also served as the QFES State Operations Centre State Coordinator and Queensland State Disaster Coordination Centre Deputy Commander, leading the COVID-19 disaster management, and other natural hazard responses. Rob has spent decades working to improve communities with the QFES, gaining him Australia's highest fire service honour.

"It was through my fire service career I found my true purpose: creating, innovating, and building capability for future generations of firefighters and emergency service workers," he explained. "Once you have found your purpose, your passion is your motivation, energy, and enthusiasm to drive your initiatives and programs. Perseverance is required to deliver results and achieve your objectives, navigating problems and roadblocks along the way."

"There's no one single highlight, but there are several moments where I look back and say, 'we did well there,'" he continued. "In all circumstances it was a team effort, it wasn't just me that delivered."

## CORONATION PROJECT

RORY DOBNER (ST. VINCENT, 1996) WORKED ON A VERY EXCITING PROJECT AHEAD OF THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III IN MAY. RORY'S ILLUSTRATED CERAMIC DESIGNS ARE MADE IN ENGLAND USING BONE CHINA WHICH IS HAND DECORATED AND EDGED IN 22 CARAT GOLD. HIGHGROVE AND FORTNUM & MASON HAD STORE EXCLUSIVITY FOR HIS CORONATION RANGE, HOWEVER RORY'S ONLINE SHOP ALSO SELLS MORE OF HIS AMAZING DESIGNS.

Rory told us how, when coming up with the designs for the plate and the mug, he was able to go to a cosy nook with lots of books, pencils and pads and come up with a design using elements which he felt represented the new King - there were no parameters he had to follow, he had free rein to design what he wanted!

Having designed three options, one was chosen and then put into production. He has also worked on an Alice in Wonderland themed Coronation street-party collection, and has previously designed a collection to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



"I am a big fan of the Monarchy, and love the history and traditions through the ages, so to be able to delve into my imagination with all the references available was my idea of heaven," said Rory, when asked how it felt to be chosen to design something which commemorates the country's history.

"I was so supported by RHS in my artistic endeavours as a teenager, exploring all the various mediums and, crucially, given the space to create. I was helped to apply successfully for my chosen university, Central St Martins in London, where I thrived studying sculpture, and all these steps have happily led to being able to sit in a light-filled studio in Hampstead drawing 24/7, which I feel very lucky to be able to do, lost in my daydreams."

If you would like to purchase one of Rory's designs, head over to his website: <https://www.rorydobner.com/product-category/ranges/coronation-of-king-charles> Alternatively, keep an eye on Rory Dobner's Instagram [@rorydobner](https://www.instagram.com/rorydobner) for more exciting news to come.



## STUDD GALA CONCERT

OUR STUDD GALA CONCERT TOOK PLACE ON 25 MARCH, WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE SUFFOLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, WHILE A RAFFLE WAS ALSO HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CENTENNIAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN.

The concert was held in memory of alumnus Professor John Studd (Cornwallis, 1957), an eminent gynaecologist who pioneered HRT treatment for the menopause, and we were delighted to be joined for the evening by members of his family.

The Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band and Big Band all performed at the concert as well as our string, flute, clarinet and percussion ensembles and a saxophone quartet. We were also treated to one of the winning entries from the year's House Shout, a rendition of 'Earth Angel' by the St. Vincent harmony group.

We also welcomed back some of our alumni: Jon Courtenay (Blake, 1991), the 2020 winner of Britain's Got Talent; Timothy Kwan (Collingwood, 2004); Ollie Moore (Drake, 2018); Ella Finch (Anson, 2018); and William Ward (St. Vincent, 1975).

There were so many wonderful performances from our talented pupils, staff and alumni. Amongst the highlights were the performances by Jon Courtenay, who treated us to his medley 'I Love A Piano', and 'I Wish I'd Asked Him More', as well as Timothy Kwan on the organ, playing the vibrant 'Il Toccata' from the Uzbekistan Suite by Georgi Mushel. The Concert Band, along with an impressive display by our Corps of Drums, brought the evening to a fitting end.



## U19 ENGLAND CRICKET

IN SEPTEMBER CHARLIE ALLISON (CORNWALLIS, 2023) WAS SELECTED FOR THE ENGLAND CRICKET U19

TEST SQUAD FOR THEIR TEST SERIES AGAINST AUSTRALIA. CHARLIE HAS BEEN PLAYING FOR ESSEX IN THE METRO BANK ONE DAY CUP AND HAS HAD SOME FANTASTIC PERFORMANCES, POSTING 254 RUNS AT AN AVERAGE OF 36.28, WITH A TOP SCORE OF 85 RUNS, AGAINST LEICESTERSHIRE FOXES.

During the summer, members of RHS staff, alumni and current pupils went to support Charlie and watch him in action.

"I'm very happy that I was selected, it's nice to know that all the work I've put in is paying off in some way," said Charlie, who was the School's 2023 boys 1st XI cricket captain.

In December Charlie was also selected for the England U19 cricket squad for the World Cup 2024 in South Africa. Congratulations, Charlie, we wish you the best of luck!



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



## THE FINAL TOM MILLER MEMORIAL MATCH

**JAMES PARKER (COLLINGWOOD, 2015) SHARED WITH US THIS HEARTFELT MATCH REPORT, AFTER THE MATCH ON SATURDAY 8 JULY.**

“It was a wet and miserable day in Nottingham, perhaps a pathetic fallacy considering how everyone felt about it being the last ever Tom Miller Memorial Match. However, the crowds still turned up and fought against the rain to see who would emerge victorious. Heading into the game it was 1-1 between The Royal Hospital School and Nottingham Trent University, and with the trophy being kept in the winning team’s trophy cabinet forever, it was quite literally all to play for.

“The game was physical, much like the previous two fixtures between these teams, and as many will know, passion fuels courage. Courage to throw yourself at the ankles of the rampaging Jack Orr (Hawke, 2015), courage to run headfirst into the brick wall that is Ben Kelland (St. Vincent, 2016), courage to sing ‘Jerusalem’ before the game and to try not shed a tear, for we sing for Tom.

“Nottingham ran away with an early lead and RHS knew they were in for a tough game. Nottingham felt stronger and more skilled, but they didn’t have the dogged determination embroidered into the RHS alumni. The willingness to never give up, the discipline drilled into them to maintain composure when the rope starts slipping, set RHS in good stead.

“At half time, the score was sitting relatively level at 18-12. A compassionate yet authoritative team talk by captain George Butt (Raleigh, 2015) soon blew the wind back into the sails of the RHS boys and they were straight back into it.

“It really did come down to the last minute. A fantastic solo try from Alex Rayment (St. Vincent, 2016) brought the scores to 29-26 to Nottingham and there was a glimmer of hope for RHS. A break in the line by Toby Eaton (St. Vincent, 2015) and suddenly, they were playing in Nottingham’s 22. A penalty here could make the difference between win or lose but a fumble of the ball and the game was over.

Nottingham won 29 points to 26, an exceptionally fitting final fixture which contained humour, love, and remembrance. The Tom Miller Memorial Shield will be kept on display in the Nottingham Trent University Clifton Campus for all to see, for all to remember one of the finest blokes to ever bless this Earth, Thomas Duncan Miller (Raleigh, 2015).”



## REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

**ALWAYS A CALENDAR HIGHLIGHT, AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. SATURDAY INCLUDED A VARIED SPORTING LINE UP, AND IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE MANY ALUMNI SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL RUGBY MATCH, WITH A GREAT ATMOSPHERE DOWN THE FIELDS. LATER IN THE DAY THERE WAS AN RHS PUPILS VS ALUMNI HOCKEY MATCH, IT WAS GREAT TO SEE ALUMNI WHO IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAD PLAYED IN THE PUPIL TEAM, COME BACK TO PLAY. THE PUPILS TOOK THE TROPHY IN THE END!**

At Alton Water there was also the first RHS alumni vs RHS pupils sailing regatta. It was possible to squeeze in three races with 15 boats competing. The alumni came out the overall winners, picking up 3rd, 2nd and 1st place after a fun afternoon on the water.

On Sunday our alumni community marched alongside our current RHS pupils during Remembrance Divisions. What made Divisions even more special was the fact that the Inspecting Officer was RHS alumnus General Sir Jim Hockenhill KBE ADC Gen, who was also able to reminisce with old school friends. Divisions was followed by a Remembrance service in chapel, and Nick Gill (RHSA General Secretary) placed a wreath on behalf of the RHSA. Following chapel there was an Act of Remembrance led by the RHSA in the memorial garden.

We can’t wait to do it all again next year!



George Franks



## DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER

**PADDLING THROUGH THE NIGHT WITH THE AIM OF COMPLETING THE CHALLENGE IN UNDER 24 HOURS, FREDDIE WOOTTON (HAWKE, 2019) AND ROB DAY (COLLINGWOOD, 2019) TACKLED THE DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER CANOE RACE.**

Freddie and Rob started out in Devizes in Wiltshire and paddled continuously for 125 miles along the Kennet and Avon Canal, then onto the River Thames all the way to Westminster Bridge in the heart of London. During the journey they also had to run 76 portages measuring a total of 3.5 kilometres.

“Both Rob and I suffer dietary restrictions, me as a coeliac and Rob who has Crohn’s disease,” Freddie explained. “We both trained for the race with the School in 2019; I completed it over the three days with overnight camping but unfortunately Rob had to withdraw due to a particularly bad attack of his Crohn’s disease.” Now in their final year at Oxford Brookes university they decided to take on the challenge again, so Rob could complete it and raise funds for The OddBalls Foundation.

## SPEECH DAY 2023

**THERE WAS A WONDERFUL ATMOSPHERE AS THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR TALENTED PUPILS. FROM HEARTFELT SPEECHES TO A FANTASTIC DIVISIONS DISPLAY, IT WAS A DAY FILLED WITH PRIDE AND JOY.**



Congratulations to all the award winners and many thanks to our guest of honour and our inspecting officer, Air Marshal Clare Walton CB KHP, Director General Defence Medical Services, whose speech was inspiring and motivational. It was also lovely to welcome back visiting alumni this year.



## GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD SUCCESS

**RHS PUPILS AND ALUMNI HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO CELEBRATE THEIR GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARDS.**

The RHS pupils and alumni were incredibly fortunate to have a personal interaction with the Duke of Edinburgh himself. He stopped in front of them and engaged in a conversation, remarking, “Oh yes, I know the Royal Hospital School.”

Alumni receiving their award included Charlotte Stenning (Raleigh, 2020); Sarah Stubbs (Drake, 2021); Jaz Skingle (Drake, 2022); Carrick Capon-Telford (Cornwallis, 2021); Tom Davis (St. Vincent, 2019); Giles Lennox (Cornwallis, 2020); Joel Sheldon (Raleigh, 2022); Olivia Gowland (Hood, 2022); Annis Cousins (Hood, 2019); Callum Corbould (Drake, 2023); Bertie Rose (Drake, 2022); Eve Clifton-Thompson (Raleigh, 2022); Laura Tickle (Howe, 2022); Jasmine Wakefield (Drake, 2022) and Arabella Doe (Raleigh, 2023).

## INSPIRATIONAL LECTURE

**BRIAN WHEELER (HOWE, 1990) GAVE A LECTURE WHICH LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON PUPILS.**

Brian joined the RAF in 1992 as an Air Traffic Control Officer. After eight years, he left and joined NATS (National Air Traffic Services), where he has worked ever since and is now the Deputy General Manager. Brian’s talk also focussed on a life-changing event; he became paralysed overnight by a rare condition called cauda equina syndrome. He was told it was likely he would never walk again, but he defied the doctors and battled to get back on his feet.

An advocate for equality for all disabilities, Brian talks about all aspects of his disability and how a life-changing injury does not mean life has to be any less enjoyable.



# 7 YEARS ON...

RHS alumni go on to a wide variety of exciting and challenging careers, each following their own path to get there. In each issue we meet alumni of seven years and find out where they are at 25 years old. **Lauren Bayliss-Fuller** chats to **Simone Rossouw** (Howe, 2016).



**DECIDING ON YOUR CAREER WHILE YOU'RE STILL AT SCHOOL IS DAUNTING ENOUGH, BUT WHAT ABOUT CONSIDERING ROLES THAT DON'T YET EXIST? SIMONE SHARES WITH US HOW YOU CAN CARVE YOUR OWN FUTURE, IN UNEXPECTED WAYS, PARTICULARLY IF YOU HAVE THE RHS TENACITY AND GRIT.**

Simone Rossouw is a Sustainability Coordinator for URBN, a large conglomerate which includes Urban Outfitters and Anthropologie. Her journey into this role included the completion of a BSc in Environmental Geology and then a MSc in Earth Science by Research – a significant part of her Master's saw her lead a project researching and analysing microplastic pollution from household laundry and fabric manufacture.

During her studies, Simone successfully added new contributions to this scientific field, devising her own experimental methods which enabled her to complete important analysis. Her research and subsequent career steps highlight the importance of comprehending sustainable impacts and why it is important for businesses to take responsibility.

"After leaving RHS I went on to do an undergraduate degree in environmental geology," Simone explains. "It was a topic that encompassed everything I loved about learning – exploring new places, uncovering hidden ancient mysteries, appreciating the world we live in, and coming up with solutions on how to best take care of it. When it came to my third year, I became fascinated with microplastic pollution in water, and that's what I wanted to do for my research project."

Simone needed to convince the faculty that her proposal to research microplastics was worthwhile. This was difficult when the experts on the topic, at the time, were minimal. Simone pioneered new research methods and was astonished by what she found. "In every bucket of water I collected from the River Wey, down in Surrey, there were brightly coloured pieces of plastic. And 95% of those pieces were fibres, mostly polyester, nylon and acrylic."

After submitting her work, the department asked her to stay on for postgraduate research to further study the



Above: Simone now uses her background in environmental sciences to work as a sustainability coordinator for a retail group.

Left: Simone graduated in 2021 from Royal Holloway, University of London, with an MSc in Environmental Geology.



origins of this vast pollutant, which hadn't been focused on before. Simone went on to do an MSc, looking more deeply at the origin of microplastic pollution from textiles.

"After just following my nose for five years since leaving RHS I somehow found myself working in fashion as a Sustainability Coordinator," Simone tells me. "With maths, biology and geography A levels from RHS, no one could have ever convinced me that I would one day be working at one of the largest fashion houses in the world!"

"Sustainability analysts had no place in the fashion industry when I left school in 2016, they simply didn't exist," she says. Interestingly enough, Simone can recall an RHS teacher telling her and her classmates that most of them would end up doing jobs that didn't yet exist. This certainly came to pass for her, and she explains that this memory always gave her comfort when she couldn't clearly see the career path ahead.

Since beginning her career there have been countless times when Simone has drawn from things that past teachers, house staff and sports coaches have told her, using them to inform her approach to her every day work. "The appreciation of something bigger than yourself, and playing your part in that with those around you would have to be one of the biggest takeaways that has helped me every stage of the way," she explains. "I still use the skills I learnt from RHS every day." ■

# Finn Corcoran: Be determined, try different things



*Finn Corcoran (Cornwallis, 2020), took time out to speak to Lauren Bayliss-Fuller about his career path since leaving RHS.*

**KNOWING WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE (AND HOW TO GET THERE) ISN'T OBVIOUS FOR EVERYONE WHILE THEY'RE AT RHS, BUT FOR FINN CORCORAN (CORNWALLIS, 2020) IT WAS VERY SIMPLE: HIS EYES WERE FIRMLY SET ON A GREEN BERET. FINN SHARES HIS CAREER JOURNEY TO DATE.**

#### **CAN YOU BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR CAREER PATH?**

I became interested in the Forces through the CCF and the Guard. I watched a few senior pupils gain an Army sixth form scholarship, and I thought I'd try my hand at that as they set a standard to aspire to. With the help of Mr Pooley I began preparing for my AOSB (Army Officer Selection Board). This involved two stages, the Briefing and the Main Board, and for both you needed to be physically and mentally fit. I was delighted when I was offered a scholarship. I then went on to secure a bursary place on the Defence STEM Undergraduate Scheme, which sponsored me through three years of university study, with the goal of joining the army as an Engineer.

One condition of the Scheme was that I join my local UOTC (University Officers Training Corps), for me it was London. I was offered a place on Commissioning Course Short 212 in my first summer at university. The course takes eight weeks to complete and is based directly on the Regular Commissioning Course. It is intense and challenging, designed to teach the fundamentals of soldiering and develop Officer Cadets' leadership skills. I was a Platoon Commander there for a year, before I completed the Reserve Forces Commando Course in my second year at university, and transferred into 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers.

#### **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER BUDDING OFFICERS?**

The skills and attributes that have helped me through so far are determination and a willingness to try different things. I've always loved being part of a team, for example, I was in the first XV rugby team at RHS. I'm also happy to follow my own path, though. In fact I was the only boy taking ballet lessons for much of my time at school and took quite a bit of flack for that, but I loved it. Ballet taught me a



huge amount about staying true to myself, and did wonders for my confidence.

Somewhere along the line at RHS I was advised to throw myself at everything that came my way and don't give in until it's over. This has proven such excellent advice I just have to pass it on. You won't forgive yourself if you don't grab every opportunity.

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE CAREER MOMENTS SO FAR?**

The stand-out moments of my career so far have been walking up the steps of Old College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, being presented my green beret at the end of the 30 miler, leading the Remembrance parade for Harrow Borough Council, and attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace. One that I look forward to is walking up the steps of Old College again, but this time as a Regular Officer. Graduating from my Engineering degree will also be a big moment.

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR BEST RHS MEMORIES?**

My time at RHS was full of unique experiences. Like anyone I had highs and lows, it wasn't all plain sailing. But there are special moments littered throughout such as gaining an academic scholarship, completing my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, trips to France and South Africa, becoming a Guard



At RHS I was advised to throw myself at everything that came my way and don't give in until it's over. This has proven such excellent advice I just have to pass it on.

**FINN CORCORAN  
(CORNWALLIS, 2020)**



Commander, a prefect and particularly becoming Head of Guard. Not to mention the experiences that I was given through the choir, such as singing at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

I was really disappointed that COVID denied me the opportunity of leading our end of year Divis. I'm not sure I should say too much about the fire we had on one of our Shrimper expeditions - although I did get a Coxswain's award for helping to make sure everyone (and the boat) was safe!

Really importantly, I made some great friends - some I know will be lifelong. ■

# Fair winds and following seas

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF LONG-STANDING STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE LEFT OR WILL BE LEAVING THEIR ROLES AT RHS SOON, AND WILL BE JOINING THE RANKS OF OUR WIDER COMMUNITY. LAUREN BAYLISS-FULLER CAUGHT UP WITH SOME OF THEM TO HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES OF THE SCHOOL AS THEY MOVE ON TO THEIR NEXT CHAPTER.

## SIMON LOCKYER

“What are my favourite memories? Highlights for me always include times when our whole community is together, such as sports day and Remembrance, but there are some poignant moments that really stand out. When the whole School gathered for a final Flag before we closed for COVID, there was a spontaneous round of applause and it felt very different from any Flag before. Flag also stands out again when we all gathered after the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth in September 2022. Of course, congers on a Saturday morning – I could use it as a barometer of the School’s mood!

“But it’s the little things that I’ll miss, for example there’s a corner of the golf course that is where the younger pupils gather to support the older pupils during cross country, and it is lovely to watch.

“My favourite place? I love where I can see the view, the one from the clock tower is phenomenal, and the view from Erwarton, looking back from the peninsular. But then, if I am at the sea wall, I’ll look back and think, ‘gosh, I’m responsible for all that!’

“What will I miss the most? One of the greatest privileges has been having such moments of pride for the pupils. The individual moments where someone has blossomed, they’ve found their stride, and are having their moment. I will miss that, but I will also really miss the interesting people of the RHS community. And of course, I will miss the hymns in chapel – who wouldn’t?”



*Simon Lockyer has been Headmaster of the Royal Hospital School since 2016. He was previously Second Master at Portsmouth Grammar School, and before that a Housemaster and Head of Department at Wellington College. He studied Microbiology at the University of Newcastle, completed his PGCE at the University of Cambridge, and gained a Masters in Educational Leadership at the University of Buckingham. Simon leaves RHS in August 2024 to become the CEO and Principal of the British School of Milan.*



**REVEREND PHILIP MCCONNELL**

“As an alumnus of a large boarding school in County Antrim, the environment seemed somewhat familiar when I joined RHS in 2010, but the Holbrook campus

had an enormous wow factor, the like of which I had not seen.

“When I ascended the pulpit stairs for the first time in September, I found the sermon notes which my predecessor, the Reverend Dr Charles Stewart, had left on the lectern when he gave his final address the previous June. Unknowingly, the text I had chosen to begin with followed immediately from the text where he had chosen to end. A strange coincidence perhaps, but possibly it was the hand of Providence confirming that I was in the right place at the right time. I took it as that!

“It always seemed to me that the chapel was generally a happy gathering place, and that its contribution to young people in their formative years had an enduring significance. But chaplaincy is much more than what happens in chapel, it offers pastoral support to the whole school community. I have christened babies, conducted weddings, and sadly conducted the funerals of pupils, staff and friends of RHS. People matter, and travelling with them to support them, enrich them, and add value to their lives is a great privilege.

“The constant refrain of the Nelson leavers each year is to exhort their successors to ‘take every opportunity’. It would be impossible to exhaust every opportunity that RHS affords, but enjoying the life of a school chaplain and an all-round school master, I have taken many.

“In the classroom I taught Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. I also had spells in the Art and Music departments and taught the Compass Course. Beyond the classroom I shared the sense of pride in many Naval traditions and the great occasions of a Divisions parade and a Trafalgar Night dinner. I enjoyed coaching sport, singing in the choir, sailing on Alton Water, sourcing and serving in the tuck shop for the School’s selected charities, playing the trombone at the Christmas dinner, and accompanying trips to London, Rome, Paris, Iceland and Wisbech!

“I will always remember the great events at St. Paul’s Cathedral, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Royal Albert Hall and the Vatican. RHS is a wonderful self-contained community (bubble). I met and lived among many great people. I experienced all this with my wife, Elaine, who was Housemistress of Blake House for a time as well as a Geography teacher, and also as a parent when our son Ross made his way through Collingwood and Nelson houses.

“As I write now from my home on the north Antrim coast, I am watching the rolling breakers of the Atlantic. From here, the regular sight of ‘those who go down to the sea in ships’ reminds me of the seafaring heritage of a great school that offered so many opportunities, fond memories and which was an honour to serve.”

*Reverend Philip McConnell began his working life as a school teacher, before returning to university after a few years to read theology, and subsequently be ordained as a Minister of the Church. He joined the Royal Hospital School in 2010, and retired in December 2022.*



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL JONATHAN POOLEY**

“In the summer of 2004, RHS was looking to fill several roles around the School: boarding housemaster, biology teacher,

games coach and CCF officer. It sounded a perfect fit for me, and the School came highly recommended as a solid boarding school by a good friend of mine at Gresham’s.

“We arrived at Collingwood house that September, as a young family, from Rossall School, at the same time as the School got Howard Blackett as the new Headie. Whether it was as a professional, a colleague, a resident family on campus and even as parents – for all three of our children attended as boarders – this time was amazing. Collingwood had the perfect team of tutors and matron Colleen Clark. The boys responded to the mentoring that was given, and we quickly went from being the house with the poorest reputation to the flagship house at RHS.

“I loved working in the Biology department and of course CCF was a huge part of my time at RHS in this period. Add to that Tall Ships, Shrimper cruises, ski trips and DofE expeditions – the days were packed with adventures and great company with staff and pupils. Then in 2014 the new Headmaster James Lockwood asked if Annette and I would like to take on Nelson house, as my 10 year tenure in Collingwood had come to an end. It was a big decision, as Annette would have to leave a successful job at Ipswich High School. But we never looked back. Nelson was a fabulous opportunity. Very different from all the other boarding houses we had worked in, and a perfect way for us to complete nearly 30 years living and working in a boarding house as a family. It was the icing on the cake.

“It is so hard to sum up more than 18 years at RHS in just a few lines like this. There are so many interesting stories to tell. What we do know is that we have all been greatly enriched by all the experiences and connections with pupils, parents and all staff: teaching and support. We are indebted to all of them. As Christians, chapel life of course was also a major component of our time at RHS and it is something we think of frequently.

“We take a vast array of happy memories with us to the US. As Commandant at Riverside Military Academy, I continue to have a link back to RHS via the exchange programme, and of course we both do through our children’s connection as alumni, residents and employees, as well as keeping in touch with existing and former staff.”

*Jonathan is now the Commandant at Riverside Military Academy, Georgia USA. This role is a mix of being the Second Master, Deputy Head Pastoral and Deputy Head Co-Curricular. He continues to have a role with the CCF, acting as a liaison in the US with the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), the American equivalent of CCF, promoting the cadet exchange programmes.*



**RUTH GITSHAM**

“After graduating from Liverpool Polytechnic, I worked for Suffolk County Libraries, but only had a temporary contract, so when the job at RHS came up I applied. The rest is history! I remember my interview at RHS very clearly, the library, as we know it today, didn’t even exist. I stood on the grass verge and in front of me was a lawn with some pegs marking out a shape – I was told this was where the library and staff common room would be.

“My favourite RHS memories include the big chapel services such as Remembrance, Harvest and Christmas. Not being attached to a boarding house meant I could sit on the balcony and really hear the blast of the organ. And of course, the band tours were wonderful. I have fond memories of Roger Jones and David Bolton, and we got to visit Canada, America and Malta. A stand-out memory is the 1992 Library Exchange where I went to Toowoomba Grammar School for the Summer, Michael Kirk was the headmaster at the time. There were rumours that my exchange counterpart was teaching cricket in the library!”

*Ruth joined RHS in September 1985 and left in July 2023. She is looking forward to travelling but will still spend time at RHS as part of the Holbrook Choral Society. ■*

# Finding a niche

*Paul Hulston (Anson, 1997) talks to Lauren Bayliss-Fuller about how he fell into brand activation through his university bar work – and how his business has since taken off, working for global brands at events from the London Olympics to international trade shows at Cannes.*

**TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW. DID YOU ALWAYS INTEND TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR?**

I left RHS in June 1997, I recall driving away from school not really knowing what was next. That summer I dosed around doing the odd job here and there till my results arrived. I didn't get the grades I wanted, so went through clearing, and I ended up at Derby University studying Product Design with Innovation and Marketing. The biggest challenge was self-discipline. No longer would John Dugdale (Anson Housemaster) be there telling me to do my homework every night, or making us do 'video club' on a Saturday night to get work finished. Instead, playing rugby twice a week and

socialising (probably too much), whilst working in the Students' Union, led to me dropping out. I carried on living like a student and continued to work in the Union bars and nightclubs for a number of years, working my way up. At 21 I was managing the largest nightclub in Derby, not quite what I planned, but it was the path that fell in front of me.

In 2005 I wanted to do something different, but still wasn't sure what. Having enjoyed working in the drinks industry I ventured to the sales and marketing side, and worked for a company promoting a number of alcohol brands across the Midlands. Working at some of the UK's biggest festivals managing Jägermeister's festival activation was great, and I was living my

best life but working stupid hours each week and weekend. I realised if I wanted to see financial reward for my hard work I'd need to work for myself.

**TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.**

I started by looking at everything that I found in my employed role to be hard work or time consuming, and that formed the basis of my business plan for CoolShock Events. I figured if everybody felt the same way we would have found a need to fulfil and a niche to occupy.

CoolShock is a brand activation agency offering everything in house. We partner with our clients to help their brands grow, through creating bespoke environments and consumer interactions, whether they might be in travel retail, exhibitions or



festivals. The first brand we worked with was Jägermeister, and soon we picked up other drinks brands like Jack Daniels, Smirnoff vodka, Bowmore whisky and many more.

We have a turnkey operation for the design, manufacture, installation, implementation, dismantle and storage/disposal of any activation anywhere in the world.

We now have an office and workshop in Lichfield along with two warehouses, and I employ 13 full-time staff plus a number of subcontractors including a designer, project managers, carpenters and site fitters. The company continues to grow and we have plans for a lot of work in the US in 2024.

**WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS?**

It's critical to have a good understanding of what you are doing, making or selling. If you don't know then ask; do your research and find out the answers.

**WHAT CHALLENGES AND HIGHLIGHTS HAVE YOU FACED SO FAR?**

One of my stand-out moments was building and managing the hospitality areas for Coca Cola, Team GB and BT at the 2012 Olympics in Hyde Park. Also, working at Cannes World Duty Free trade show each year has become a highlight. The first time in 2015 was a great achievement, and now every year we brand at least one 47m superyacht for a number of brands including Jim Beam, Bowmore and Aston Martin, Sipsmith Gin, Courvoisier, and many more. This year the yacht was called

Scirocco, which has been featured on the TV series *Below Deck*.

As far as challenges go, COVID was a huge one for us. Everything the company does is focussed around large groups of people, and as a result of the pandemic this stopped overnight. All of a sudden, we went from having a full order book for the year to nothing. Income stopped, but the overheads didn't. The solution was diversifying into new markets using the skillsets and machinery we had in order to survive. Through networking and social media we ended up using our printers and CNC machines to make sneeze screens and signage for Network Rail, and other front-line services.

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

Enjoy what you do. If you enjoy what you are doing, you are more likely to complete a job and complete it well. If you need to do something you don't enjoy, set yourself a timeframe to get the job completed ASAP, the longer you put the job off the harder it becomes. Not everything is about money and work, enjoy the moment, the people you are with, and the time you have.

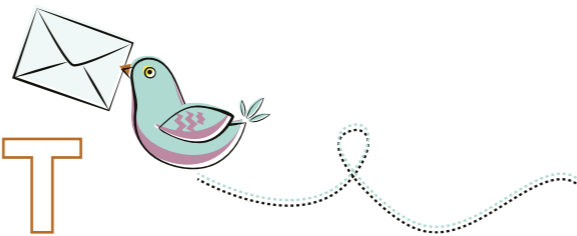
**TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TIME AT RHS, ANY SPECIAL MEMORIES?**

I did enjoy my time at RHS; I think you don't really appreciate the facilities and how lucky you are to attend such a school till after you leave. A strong memory for me was playing at the Royal Tournament as part of the Band and Guard. The sheer scale of the arena and noise of all of the parents. They cheered that loudly as the doors opened nobody could hear the command to step off and Les Dryden was screaming to be heard. ■



To find out more go to: [www.coolshock.co.uk](http://www.coolshock.co.uk)

# PIGEON POST



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

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



Adam Power (Anson, 1982) got in touch and dared us to include his story! After 35 years of working, and following the sale of his last healthcare business, he had a tremendous plan for retirement involving family, travel, and fishing in Tropical climes. But it seems that it was not to be, because after a brief hiatus, he started a women's health business with his wife, daughters and a great friend. He was aware that young women today, especially those of the 'digital generation', get much of their health advice from social media.

"It's a bit of a Wild West, with good advice mixed with some terrible advice!" he tells us. His new company, VJJ Health ([www.vjjhealth.com](http://www.vjjhealth.com)), launched in November 2023, and sets out to provide women with detailed information about their 'bits', what might go wrong, and the best way to fix any problems using the very latest clinical data. So much for retirement!

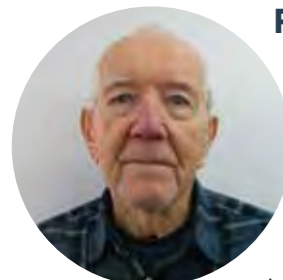
## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Roger Whiting (Howe, 1965) wrote to tell us about his time teaching refugees and asylum seekers in Derby. He has now completed a 10-month contract teaching Functional Skills Maths to ESOL students, all of whom were under 20 years of age. His 24 students had 19 different countries of birth between them, and some had never been to school! Teaching them was difficult; even for the more advanced students, while the maths was easy, the English questions caused confusion. For example, do you know how many words there are which examiners use that mean '+'? Well, how about add, plus, increase, sum, altogether, total, make and combine as a start? The same goes for division, multiplication and subtraction! Roger says he felt honoured to teach them, not least because with all that they carried, they were still trying their best. Of his class of 24, all passed Functional Skills at E3 and Level 1, and 10 passed at Level 2, the equivalent to a GCSE at grade 4/5.



Roger reflects that according to what can be read in the press, people don't rate these kids, and he suggests that if they listen to their travel stories of beatings, rape, imprisonment, starvation, loneliness and horror, they might change their minds.

## FROM IRELAND TO HOLBROOK, AND FAR BEYOND!



Former pupils often attribute their resilience in later life to their time at RHS, and Mick O'Neil (Cornwallis, 1950) is no different. He wrote to tell us of the culture shock of boarding at RHS with 600 other boys, compared with his childhood in the remote Blackstairs Mountains in County Wexford, where there were no other children to play with - however, he soon settled in. After leaving RHS in 1950, he did his National Service, and went on to a career working on cruise

ships. Although his health has deteriorated somewhat now, he is, in his own words, "so grateful to RHS for giving me the confidence and determination to live a productive life."

## FRIENDS FOR DECADES

Arthur Merchant (Hawke, 1970) wrote to tell us how RHS friendships endure. "This September my good friend George Weeks and I will have known each other for 60 years and still meet up regularly. In those days 'New Jacks' went early to the School on a Monday, were allocated to our house on the Wednesday, and then the main school returned on the Thursday. George and I plan to get together on the anniversary of our meeting which would have been the Wednesday. We think the date is either the 11th or 18th September. Can anyone tell me the date of the start of the term in September 1963?" If anybody can help Arthur with this information, please do contact the Alumni & Community Office.

"I would also say that later this year George and I plan to meet up with three others that we met that September, namely Phil Quade, Dave Hartin and Pete Mason," Arthur continues - it's fabulous to see how these life-long connections remain!

## AROUND THE WORLD BUT NOT FORGETTING RHS

Mike Stannard (St. Vincent, 1977) wrote in to tell us about his travel plans. He is taking time out from the business he has run for the last 28 years in order to enjoy the fruits of that labour. Most of this has involved travelling which has, over the last few years, taken him to various parts of Europe, the Caribbean, New Zealand and not forgetting a return visit to RHS.



"I have just toured Canada, which included two days on the Rocky Mountaineer train, a fabulous experience with breathtaking views," he explains. "I'm about to travel into the United States, drive through Yellowstone National Park, and visit Chicago before heading to Boston. I intend to continue with the travelling whilst I'm still able. Future plans include the Far East and Australia."

## CRUISING ON . . .

Mark Hunter (Nelson, 1983) got in touch to tell us he has just finished 40 years of employment with Barclays Bank, in a move he terms 'semi-retirement'. Mark's banking career started just two weeks after leaving RHS, and he remembers going for the job interview and routine medical whilst he was actually still at school studying for A levels! Having taken voluntary redundancy, he says he is in the fortunate position of being able to take his time and find something that he will really enjoy to fill the days.

Mark is still living in Ivybridge, near Plymouth, and he has just returned from a three-week holiday with his wife in and around the Adriatic on the cruise ship Marella Explorer 2, which, he says, was a little bit posher than the School cruise he did aged 15 on the SS Uganda!



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

Richard Sharrocks (Hawke, 1988) got in touch to tell us you really can run into alumni anywhere! He recently conducted an aviation compliance audit on Bristow Helicopters, Nigeria, at their Port Harcourt and Lagos offices. His point of contact at the airline was Captain Andy Beattie, an AW189 helicopter pilot and the Director of Flight Operations.



"Having introduced myself to the assembled managers, Andy declared that he recognised my name from his time at school in Suffolk," Richard tells us. "We very quickly realised that Andy had been in the same year as my brother, Duncan Sharrocks (Hawke, 1986), though Andy was in Blake. We spent the next two days reminiscing about our time at RHS... and doing a little bit of auditing!"

Captain Andy Beattie (Blake, 1983) and Captain Richard Sharrocks (Hawke, 1988)

## CAN YOU HELP?

Jeff Stewart (Drake, 1975) got in touch with our Alumni & Community Office to ask for your help. If anyone can give him any information about his parents, Marie and Jim, shown here in this 1955 photo, he would love to hear from you. While both his parents were from Manchester, and his father went on to serve in the Royal Navy, Jeff is now in Australia.



Please do contact the Alumni & Community Office if you have anything to share and we will pass it on to Jeff.

## CALM AFTER THE STORM(S)

Ted Pearn (Raleigh, 1956) wrote to say that he has finally finished globetrotting after a career spanning 60 years, working for the Fire Service, Home Office and United Nations. He tells us he has been fortunate to be able to travel all over the world, on assignments involving natural disasters, earthquakes, cyclones, floods and volcanic eruptions, and has worked in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Rwanda, Israel and Iraq.



Ted says he was privileged to meet and work with many interesting people, including US Generals and Ministers of State, as well as many dedicated volunteers and rescue workers. He also worked with Khaled Philby, brother of the infamous Kim!

He explains that his work has made him appreciate life in a wider perspective, which has meant learning not always to view circumstances or situations with 'Western eyes', and to appreciate just how resilient people can be in times of disaster or adversity. "RHS certainly gave me a great start in life and to my working career. I am now resigned to gardening, shopping and looking after my classic car, in the beautiful surroundings of the New Forest," he says.

## TIME TO TRAVEL

Paul Williams (Raleigh, 1980) messaged via Facebook. "My news is very short and sweet, after 36 years in IT I have just retired! I am deciding where to travel next year, I fancy spending four months or longer in South America!" Perhaps if anyone has some good suggestions for Paul's travels they could let us know!



## A FAMILY VISITS

Malcolm Costigan (Cornwallis, 1988) popped back to RHS in July to show his family the School, although his children had difficulty reconciling the place they saw with some of Malcolm's stories of the '80s. It was lovely to hear from Malcolm after his visit, with an email outlining what he's been up to since leaving RHS. His journey has included Newcastle University (LLB and solicitors finals), followed by a gap year where he met his wife in Australia. He then qualified as a solicitor and worked in Portsmouth, before he and his wife moved to Denmark, after which he completed the LLB and LLM at Copenhagen University and has worked as a lawyer for 20+ years. Malcolm and his wife, Majbrit, have two children, Matilda and Hector.



## ONE MAN IN HIS TIME PLAYS MANY PARTS

Seeing himself in a previous issue of *Gidge* as Guard Commander prompted Nelson Ward (Hawke, 1959) to write in and tell us about the rich and varied life that RHS prepared him for. While at school, two particular memories stand out: he wrote and performed in a play and was also the rugby captain. Both interests have since been central to Nelson's life; he played county rugby for Hampshire - with another alumnus, Mark South (Drake, 1956) - then took up acting professionally after an injury on the pitch. "In a very interesting career I have performed in the West End at four theatres, including the London Palladium with The Two Ronnies, and for Jonathan Miller's company at the Old Vic with the Hollywood actor Max Von Sydow," he tells us. "I am indebted to RHS for teaching me the resilience and discipline for my career path." Recently, he has worked on a sci-fi film, *Dimension Slip*, which premiered at the Rhode Island Festival over the summer - you can watch its trailer on YouTube!



## LA VIE EST BELLE!

Steve Brown (Collingwood, 1974) wrote to tell us about his life in France and remind us of the virtues of studying a modern language at school. "When I passed my French A Level at RHS in 1974, little did I know that I would end up living in this beautiful country," he tells us. "Many people ask me if I regret the move - I don't for a minute, although one must be prepared for life in a different country. I arrived just before the end of the Brexit transition period, attracted by very low property prices, so avoided many of the bureaucratic requirements. However, moving today can be managed if you are prepared to follow the paperwork."



"People sometimes say that living in rural France (I am in Charente) is like living in England in the 1950s. I am old enough to understand that view - few if any shops open on Sundays, most closing for lunch, everybody saying 'Bonjour' in passing - but in reality life here is what you make of it. It's peaceful, the scenery is mostly stunning and most of the time people are polite and friendly. You need to be prepared to learn the language, but I would encourage anyone to give it a go!"

## HOW TO BE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE RHSA

Nick Gill (Collingwood, 1988) gives us a glimpse into all he's achieved since leaving school, the culmination of which is surely his role on the RHSA Committee!

"I left RHS in 1988, and spent many years working as a Retail Manager for Sainsbury's. In 1993 I moved to their Head Office and worked in the Petrol Department as an Operations Specialist, leaving in 2001. I later joined Lynx Construction Group as their Health, Safety & Environmental Manager, gaining my NEBOSH certificate and a TechIOSH professional qualification.



I provide specialist advice to all levels within the company on HSE matters and carry out regular site inspections across the UK to ensure all people on our sites are working safely, and making the best choice for their own and others' health and safety. I was instrumental in getting our internationally recognised accreditations for Health & Safety - ISO 45001 and for Environmental Management - ISO 14001. Currently we are involved in a rollout programme constructing EV charging stations for Sainsbury's. On a personal level, I give up some free time to be Hon General Secretary for the RHSA, which is my way of giving back to a school that made me who I am today."

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

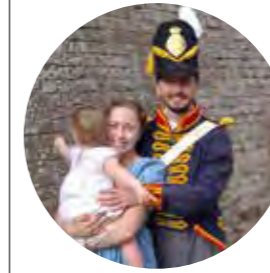
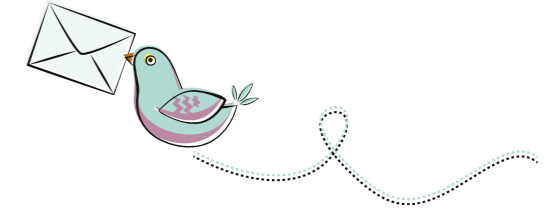
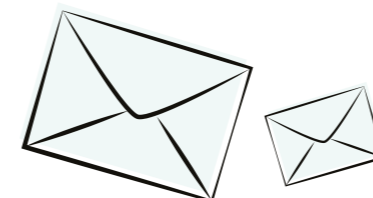
## IT'S A SINGAPORE THING...

Paul Marshall (Raleigh, 1952) got in touch to tell us he is now a full-time resident in Malaysia, having sold everything in the UK. After 37 years in the Royal Navy, starting as Artificer Apprentice and passing out as Acting Commander, he later took up a second career teaching mathematics, before retiring.

He says life is much more pleasant where he is now, if you ignore the constant political fighting between the 27 diverse parties! The cost of living is much lower than UK, and the rate of exchange for his pension is favourable. He tells us a recent visit to Singapore brought back memories of his visits in the '50s and '60s. So much has changed: no dockyard, no black Mercedes taxis driven by Sikhs, but lots of high-rise buildings and a very efficient bus and metro service doing away with the need for a car.



Many of the old areas and road names are still in existence but there is little sign of any military buildings. However, Paul says he did manage to achieve a long-time ambition: to have a Singapore Sling in the Long Bar of Raffles Hotel, a luxury he could not afford before! Three drinks cost \$111, which is £66.50! "As an 87 year old I am enjoying my retirement, but still remember my days at RHS in Raleigh 1947-52 fondly!"



## PROUD TO BE LOUD!

Chris Warner (Anson, 2010) wrote to the Alumni & Community Office to tell us that his historical re-enactment group, the King's German Artillery, has recently purchased some more cannons and is looking for more gunners to fire them. Alumni with an interest in history should head to the unit's website (<https://kingsgermanartillery.uk>) to see whether they might want to take part. Gunners with musical flair are particularly welcome as the unit is renowned for its enthusiastic reimagining of folk songs and sea shanties!



## FROM PUPIL TO TEACHER

Morgan Thomas (Anson, 2020) emailed to tell us about her post-university exploits.

"After leaving Buckinghamshire New University with a first-class degree in Psychology and an academic award, I have recently started employment at St Edward's School in Oxford as a teacher of Sport, Psychology and Wellbeing," she says. "In addition to this I have become an active member in Teddies' CCF and DofE programmes, whilst undertaking my own Gold DofE. After starting this job not only do I truly understand the role my teachers at RHS played during my own time as a pupil, but also look back even more fondly to my RHS days, and have become nostalgic over Divisions, Congo and the famous 'RHS Bubble'. In sporting news, I am glad to say I am actively competing again in powerlifting, in addition to playing netball in the local Oxford league. My aims for this year are to walk/climb Snowdon, work towards my PGCE/Masters programme, and throw myself into every opportunity presented to me."



## THREE'S A CROWD!

Three former pupils found themselves together at the annual Aviators' Ball on 18 November. The Aviators' Ball is the annual fundraising event for Aerobility, the disability aviation charity.

Brian Wheeler (Howe, 1990) is the Chief Operating Officer at Aerobility; Kevin Briscoe (Raleigh, 1983) runs Briscoe PR, a public relations and communications agency that works with Aerobility; Paul Jones (Collingwood, 1986) is Group Customer Account Manager for air traffic control company NATS.



Pictured are (left to right): Brian Wheeler (Howe, 1990); Kevin Briscoe (Raleigh, 1983); Paul Jones (Collingwood, 1986).

## KIM'S ANTIPODEAN ADVENTURE

"Is there something you've been putting off as the 'time never feels right'?" says Kim Wood (Blake, 2010), who wrote to us to share her recent Antipodean travel experiences.

"I love to travel and explore new places, but I had been delaying a dream trip to combine Australia and New Zealand for years as I didn't feel that I had the time. That was until last year when I became a mother and had an undetermined amount of time off work with my new mini-me.

"Staring at the small miracle in my arms could take place anywhere, right...? So, with the support of my amazing husband (who wasn't able to join us), when our daughter was three months old, I found myself facing 24 hours of travel to Australia to start a six-week trip in the Southern Hemisphere.

"We stayed with one of my best friends in Adelaide, and took a couple of 'internal' mini holidays to Queensland and Victoria to get a feel of this vast country. We thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful beaches and vineyards, as well as encountering native animals.

"After three weeks of attempting to teach my daughter to say 'g'day mate', it was time to say goodbye to Oz and 'kia ora' to New Zealand. We picked up our campervan in Auckland and hit the road for the next three weeks, weaving our way through both the North and South Islands. Our home on wheels took us to some of the most beautiful places on this planet during those weeks. I carried my daughter along many miles of tramping trails, drove thousands of miles along winding roads, plus we simply sat in many stunning locations just staring at each other. Every moment was precious!

"I think some friends and family thought I was mad even considering this trip with a newborn and that the time was almost certainly not right! But I can truly say that, although having a mini human to keep alive is all-consuming, having something additional to focus on, rather than obsessing over the small worries means you can actually enjoy those small moments even more.

"The right time might not be now... but it may also be the perfect time!"



## HARRIET SAYS G'DAY!

Harriet Murrison (Howe, 2013) wrote to urge any of us considering a year abroad to just do it! "Earlier this year, I returned home after a fantastic year abroad in Australia. I spent the first two weeks exploring Sydney, then decided to travel up towards Cairns. From learning to surf in Byron Bay to skydiving over Mission Beach, the East Coast was full of adventures and gave me the chance to meet like-minded people.

"When my East Coast expedition came to an end, I settled in Airlie Beach and was lucky enough to find a job working on the Great Barrier Reef. I had the time of my life! I became a certified Open Water Diver, sailed around the beautiful Whitsundays, relaxed on Whitehaven Beach and made lifelong friends. Before I returned to the UK, I endured a 5,000 km road trip, from Perth to Melbourne, with a friend I met in Airlie Beach. Along the way, we visited Fremantle Prison, set up camp at Lucky Bay and went to the Adelaide Fringe. I will look back on my time in Australia with extremely fond memories. If you're thinking about doing a year abroad, do it! Don't hesitate for a second."



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

## BIG SUCCESSES FOR BRISCOE PR

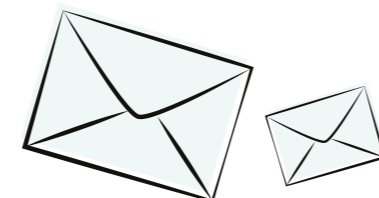
The PR agency run by alumnus Kevin Briscoe (Raleigh, 1983) was named as a finalist in two categories in an industry-leading awards this year, and went on to win Gold in one of them.

Briscoe PR ([www.briscoepr.co.uk](http://www.briscoepr.co.uk)), which has offices in Fareham and Plymouth, was shortlisted in the categories for 'Best Long-term Client Care' and 'Best Event' in the CIPR's annual regional PR awards. The agency was recognised for its outstanding long-term services for Healthy Pet Store, and for supporting Westlands Farm Shop with its hugely successful spring lambing event which attracted more than 4,000 visitors.



Kevin said being shortlisted for two prestigious awards was a testament to the team's dedication to clients across the south of England, and was particularly delighted that they had won 'Best Event' for the second year in a row!

Separately, Kevin recently completed his term of office as the Chairman of the Corporation of Fareham College after leading it into a three-way merger with Southampton City College and Eastleigh College. Kevin, who served for more than nine years on the board of the Ofsted Outstanding Fareham College, the final three and a half years as Chair, reached the end of his term of office as the merger completed on 1 August.



## FORMER BOARDER IN THE BORDERS

Andrew Deuchar (Hood, 1973) brought us up to speed with his work and leisure plans by sending an email to the Alumni & Community Office. He and his wife, Fran, have moved to the Scottish Borders and find themselves as busy as ever.

Andrew takes on the role of Director of the Berwick Literary Festival at the end of the year, an event which has grown very rapidly in the past few years, and is also organising an international Gathering of Deuchar family members in Edinburgh next summer. With 11 grandchildren spread across the country (and in Stockholm), he tells us keeping in touch is a challenge for him, whereas emptying the bank account is easy!



## BAKING IN THE BVI

Hannah Welch (Blake, 2010) is the CEO and owner of H Bakes & Canapés in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in the Caribbean. Hannah emailed to tell us about her business. "I make bespoke celebration cakes and cater canapés and party bites for a living. When I left RHS I gained a BA in Animation at UWE Bristol, and then completed an apprenticeship in Professional Cookery at Bristol through Weston College."

Hannah is a great example of how your pathway is never straight and as she says, "just remember that you can always change directions or branch into new areas at whatever stage you are in!"



## RE-SET AND DE-STRESSED BY MOUNT EVEREST

Amelia Potter (Howe, 2020) wrote to the Alumni & Community Office to tell us about her time backpacking in Asia. "After spending a month teaching English in Pokhara, Nepal, last July, I had to return!" she says. "The country left a lasting impression on me due to its peaceful nature and kind philosophy. The two main religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, live in harmony here. Considering the conflicts nearby, I told a Nepali man that I found that special. 'Of course we have no war. If we have war a Nepali person dies, so we have no war,' he said. It's as if before anything else, a Nepali person's life is sacred just by being part of this country.

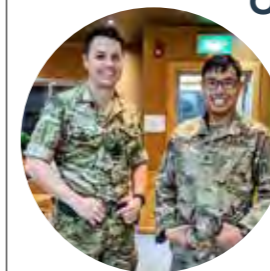
"I returned this year, after solo-backpacking in Vietnam and Thailand, to trek to Mount Everest Base Camp. We left on 4 September for a 12-day round trip through the Himalayas. Many garlic soups later, and with a slight headache from the altitude, I made it to the special rock. En route we learned a lot about the Sherpa race, and the history of this sacred mountain. The mountain is understood by Nepal to be the mother mountain and is widely respected here as a powerful being, much like the Sherpas. There is a saying from the Sherpa community that Everest is not something you conquer, instead to climb it to crawl into your mother's lap. I see Everest as something entirely beyond. The trip taught me a lot about patience and trust.

"I write this in the Tenzing-Hillary airport in Lukla - one of the smallest airports in the world, in the country with the biggest heart. I'm going back to the UK now to finish my LLB Law at SOAS University of London."



## OF ALL THE PLACES TO MEET

Lieutenant Commander Philip Shaw (Anson, 2004) emailed us to highlight just how small the world can be. "This photo was taken when I was deployed on Operation SHADER which is the UK named operation that also supports the overall coalition forces' Operations Inherent Resolve," he says. "I bumped into RHS alumnus, Arieanto Sutrisno (Anson, 2004). He is serving with the US Army National Guard. It was great to take a trip down memory lane."



## STAYING IN TOUCH

Paul Waldie (Collingwood, 1972) clearly has good times staying in touch with his vintage year group. He tells us he is happily married, living in Sidcup, Kent, and working as a consultant for high-profile retail store groups in UK and Europe, but he still finds time to keep in touch with many of his year group. This year he has met up with Nicky Butt (Collingwood, 1972), Steve Booth (Collingwood, 1972), Mark Lucas (St. Vincent, 1974), Martin Hobbs (Collingwood, 1973), Alex Low (Hawke, 1973), Ian Leonard (Hood, 1977) and many others, including at a get-together at Dirty Dicks (close to Liverpool Street Station) in July, with a dozen or so Old Boys, timed to coincide with when David Crouch (Nelson, 1972) came over from Japan.



1. Old Boys at Dirty Dicks, shown left to right: Alex Low (Hawke, 1973); Nicky Butt (Collingwood, 1972); Paul Waldie (Collingwood, 1972).

2. Old Boys at Dirty Dicks, shown left to right: Martin Hobbs (Collingwood, 1973); Paul Waldie (Collingwood, 1972).

3. Old Boys at Dirty Dicks, shown left to right: Paul Waldie (Collingwood, 1972); Mark Lucas (St. Vincent, 1974).

4. Old Boys at Dirty Dicks in July, shown left to right: Chris Gubbey (Raleigh, 1974); Monty Callow (Drake, 1974); Paul Waldie (Collingwood, 1972); Iain McNab (Cornwallis, 1972); Paul Williams (Nelson, 1972); David Crouch (Nelson, 1972); Alex Low (Hawke, 1973).



## DEAR DOLLY

If you were part of the class of 1997, then chances are you might already know about Alice Hawkins' (Cornwallis/Hood, 1997) passion for Dolly Parton - the singer has been a lifelong muse for Alice, whose glittering photography career began in the darkroom here at RHS, and has since included work for fashion magazines from *Vogue* to *i-D*, as well as exhibitions internationally.



Alice's second book *Dear Dolly* was published in 2022 by Baron Books (£80, [www.baronbooks.co.uk](http://www.baronbooks.co.uk)), and is an investigation of how Parton dismantles stereotypes surrounding class and female representations through the singer's appearance and music. "I have always embraced my fantasies through my photography," says Alice. "Sought the unfashionable, audacious, gaudy and glamorous, and used my work as a guise to experiment with my own identity, because I have dreams of being brave and ostentatious myself."

Those of you who were at RHS in the 1950s might also recognize the Hawkins name - Alice's dad, Ian Hawkins (Raleigh, 1956) is also an alumnus, and indeed is a published author himself!

## THE POWER OF GIDGE MAGAZINE

Chris Wynne-Potts (Nelson, 1974) was prompted to send us his memories and news after receiving a copy of *Gidge* from Mark Lucas (St. Vincent, 1974). "I was in Nelson from 1969 to 1974 when George Hardy was the housemaster; he then went on to be deputy headmaster and Mr Crick took over," Chris writes to tell us.

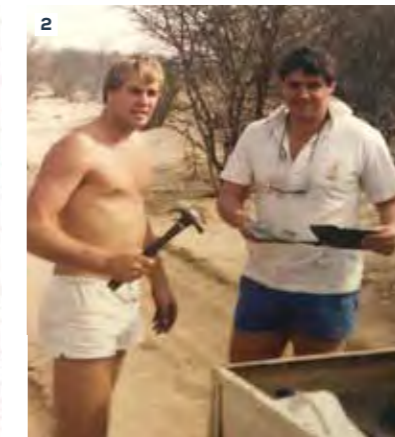
"Apart from two Old Boys' rugby games soon after leaving school, I haven't been back. But going through the *Gidge* has brought back many memories; most are happy ones, although in the early days there were a few bouts of homesickness," he says.

"After leaving RHS, I went into the Royal Hong Kong Police for seven years, which I enjoyed immensely," he continues. "During my time in Hong Kong, I played a lot of rugby, and across three different decades I played in the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens, and went on a few international rugby tours too! One of the stories I have from my time there revolves around my father, who built a road in HK with Japanese POWs after the Japanese had surrendered. Anyway, when I was there many years later, the press (knowing I was the son of the person who had built the road) took me to the memorial stone to get a story about this... to this day it is still called 'Hiram's Highway' - Hiram was my father's nickname. He was in the Royal Marines, and they were the first Allied troops to arrive after the surrender of HK.

"After the Police I then went into the commercial world with a HK listed company and remained in HK, after which I had a spell in Singapore, before being posted to Sri Lanka for four years. In 1994, when South Africa changed its government and Nelson Mandela became President, the same company asked if I was interested in opening an office in South Africa. To use the old cliché, the rest is history and I have been here ever since. I am married to a South African and have two children who are now grown up. We live just outside Durban and if anybody happens to be in the area, please look us up."



1. Chris with the stone for the road his father built.



2. In the Central Kalahari Desert.



3. Hiram's highway.

## WAS THE RHS POST OFFICE UNIQUE?

Andrew Ranson (Nelson, 1967) wrote to us to highlight the postal history of RHS - can anybody help him discover more about it, or share their memories too? Please contact the Alumni & Community Office if so!

"I would like to share a little bit of postal history of RHS Holbrook," he says. "I was in Nelson house from 1962 until 1967 and a keen stamp collector, especially GB First Day Covers. I was also a member of the School stamp club. The best thing about First Day Cover collecting was the School had its own post office. So, on the day of issue of any GB stamps I would take my first day cover to the School post office, purchase the stamps, lick and stick, and then the First Day Cover would be franked with the unique Royal Hospital School postal stamp. If I remember correctly, the post mistress was Mrs Nunn, the wife of one of our Naval instructors. She was always helpful in only franking the corner of the stamp so all the details could still be seen. There could not be many, if any, schools in the UK that had their own post office, I wonder if there is any official record or history of the RHS one."



The two First Day Covers above show the RHS post office franking mark on both.

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

# Where are they now?

*Attending RHS during the swinging Sixties was an interesting time.*

**Mark Lundquist** (Anson, 1969) found himself navigating a world of RHS discipline whilst wanting to embrace the hippy philosophy to 'turn on, tune in and drop out'.

*Mark shares the story of his journey, and where he is now...*

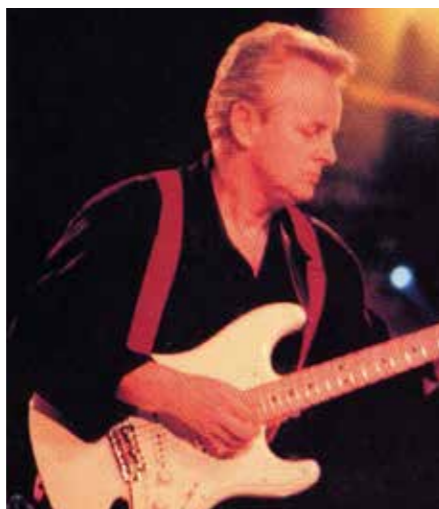
## HOW DOES THIS SCHOOL HELP IN YOUR TRAINING FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRY? THE ANSWER MAY WELL BE "DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION."

It's a popularly held belief that working in the music industry is deemed not to be a 'proper job.' It appears to outsiders and our audiences that we magically appear in different UK or worldwide locations, play for a few hours and then disappear home again. This really is one of the more insane assumptions people have made from the outside looking in, but equally perhaps that illusion is part of the magic that keeps people wanting to pay to see us play or perform.

Around 1969, during the school holidays, I was fortunate enough to meet a local bass player, Gary Twigg, when we were both about 15 years old. Gary went on to become one of George Martin's session players; George Martin was the Beatles' producer. Gary and I played many clubs together such as the Oasis Club in North End Portsmouth, Kimbells Ballroom, Brighton Polytechnic - all major venues in their heyday - over that summer. We supported bands like Caravan, Heads, Hands and Feet headed by Chas Hodges (from Chas and Dave) and Albert Lee (a fantastic country guitarist).

Subsequently, I left RHS with the full intention to seek a career in music; it had become my passion. At the age of 16, we formed a progressive rock band Fernhill - as the founder, I was singer, guitarist and songwriter. Fernhill were writing original material and we were lucky enough to play prestigious London gigs at the Marquee, the Lyceum and the Speakeasy.

In 1974, I joined forces with my brother, Paul Lundquist (Anson, 1968), to form a covers band called Truth. Together we toured throughout the UK and Europe, performing at venues such as The Top



Top: Mark Lundquist on guitar in 2004 at a festival in Bognor.

Above: Mark Lundquist with Cliff Bennett, in Hamburg 1990.

Ten Club, Hamburg. We had an entire year's residency performing at The Three Virgins and Hard Rock Café in Copenhagen. The gig scene in the early '70s was incredibly busy. In Portsmouth we had residencies at The Tricorn Club, Nero's and all the Naval bases. We managed to reel off around 2,000 gigs in five years - more than one a day!

When I was 21, we all split from our bands to do something different, and for the next 10 years I wrote songs, did solo work, played in local bands and kind of enjoyed leading a normal life. In the late '80s, a '60s revival came onto the scene, and I was delighted to get back to playing something rockier. I reformed a band that was later to take over as The Rebel Rousers with Cliff Bennett.

My new band began to back Sixties artists on the concert circuit such as Susan Maughan, Jet Harris, The Shadows and Mike Berry. Eventually I backed Cliff Bennett and the band morphed into Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers - we were the longest resident band at The Star Club.

I started as band leader for Cliff Bennett in 1987 when Cliff asked me to manage him. I had never managed anyone before but saw it as an extension of being an agent for the band. Mark Lundquist Management (MLM Concerts Ltd) was formed in 1988 and in this new direction, I took on the role of agent for a number of well-known bands.

I took on the American band The Drifters and this gave me a pretty good date sheet to work from. I had to apply for their work permits, and book and invoice their gigs. They were playing around 150 dates a year and were fully booked every single day of the weekend. Booking a tour isn't as simple a job as it sounds, you have to take all sorts of things into consideration such as routing, venue credibility and capacity, and any barring clauses.



After the success of the 1991 Alan Parker film *The Commitments*, I took the band on in 1996 and had a 13-year relationship with them as their sole agent. I think we played every festival in the UK and Europe, along with a visit to the White House with George Bush and Bertie Aherne the Irish Prime Minister.

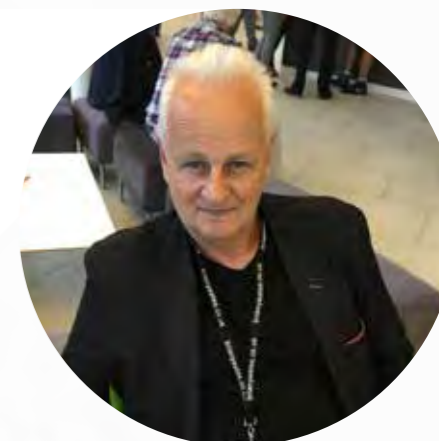
As my agency was growing a colleague introduced me to Gary Brooker from Procol Harum, and I took them on under MLM Concerts Ltd in 2000. This resulted in bookings across the world, visiting many interesting countries, including two nights spent at The Kremlin in Moscow.

In 2017 I became a councillor for the Institute of Entertainment Arts and Management (IEAM) and that same year one of my bands, The Shantics, were signed by Goldun Egg records with Jake Gosling, who also produced Ed Sheeran and One Direction. Jake was a family friend we knew way before he signed Ed!

We now produce a number of very successful theatre shows. We have the largest Elvis Presley show in the country, featuring Ben Portsmouth, and a very large Neil Diamond show called *Hello Again*. We also tour the internationally acclaimed *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*.

I've held many roles from performer to manager to agent to promoter. The music scene today is very different from the vibrancy and rawness of the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties. But it remains an industry that holds so many roles and potential for variety. You will often find musicians wear many hats throughout their careers - changing bands, moving across disciplines, trying new styles and finding new audiences. However, it is perhaps one of the few industries that truly inspires, generates and celebrates collaboration, which is a wonderful melting pot to be part of, and is incredibly rewarding.

Self-discipline instilled in me from RHS undoubtedly honed my skills as a musician, and led to creativity, launching the early stages of my professional musicianship.



# Ceremony, cycling, singing... and much, much more!

**RHS HAS ROOTS THAT SPREAD SURPRISINGLY WIDELY: THEY ARE REGAL, NAVAL, ANTIPODEAN, EGALITARIAN AND PHILANTHROPIC. OUR SCHOOL CAN BE PROUD OF ITS ROYAL CHARTER, THE EDUCATION IT OFFERS – ORIGINALLY TO BENEFIT SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, BUT NOW RANGING MUCH MORE WIDELY – ITS NEW ZEALAND LINKS, AND THE DIVERSE MIX OF PUPILS, FROM NEAR AND FAR, AND FROM WEALTHY AND MORE HUMBLE BACKGROUNDS.**

We are also a school that is aware of the privilege an independent education bestows, and is committed both to giving back to the world around us and extending opportunity to others.

The Centennial Bursary Campaign is an exciting and ambitious project, launched in 2022, which aims to change 100 lives through widening access to an RHS education. It's ambitious and long-term in its thinking: it will run for a decade, which means some of its beneficiaries haven't even learned to walk, much less march on the parade square!

*"I was seeing all my friends who weren't as lucky as me to get this bursary and they're ... not struggling ... but you can see that they're not having the same opportunities that I'm having."* **Tony, alumnus**

This year's milestone event in the Campaign took place on 26 to 27 April 2023. This was the inaugural Giving Day: 36 hours full of ceremony, celebration and generosity. It began at 0830 with the raising of two flags: one was the School's defaced ensign, and the other a new flag marking the Launch 100 Lives project. The aim of the day was to celebrate the benefits of the Centennial Bursary Campaign to donors as well as the eventual recipients, and also to see how much the School could achieve in just one day. By making donations in order to wear civvies in School colours for this day, pupils had already given the day a £1,712.50 kick start. The serendipity of those numbers was not lost on us, since 1712 was the year of the School's founding!

In the Assembly Hall, the Philanthropy Committee spoke with passionate persuasion about how every individual can make a difference both to themselves and to others by giving. Such giving is not limited to money; giving can be the gift

of our time for the service of others, or we could donate possessions such as clothes or other belongings. Everyone was invited to make their own pledge.

Then came the launch of the Cycle to Greenwich challenge. The aim was for a team of people to cycle the distance to Greenwich and back between them (without actually going there!). School Governor Adam Kerr led from the front as he pledged to cycle for 12 hours. In the end, our cyclists covered the distance to Greenwich and back almost three times over – 437 miles – and raised £5,000! Pupils joined Adam to celebrate at the end of his epic 12 hours cycling – what an inspiration!

The positive mood continued into lunch with 'Launch 100 Lives' bunting decorating the servery and special toppers on every piece of flapjack!

Through the day, messages of support from alumni, parents and friends of the School arrived on the Giving Day Donor Wall. Encouragements like these were typical, and a great motivation for us:

*"The Royal Hospital School is an exceptionally special place and community. It provides extraordinary opportunities to its pupils. My decision to send my daughter here was the best decision I've ever made. It is important to give back."*

*"I think it's very important to support the RHS ethos for the future so other families can have access to the same experience we have benefited from."*

*"We have always admired the ethos of the School since our son's entry back in 2005, hence our continued admiration these past 18 years. Therefore, anything we can offer to encourage its continuation for future generations we wholeheartedly support."*

At 17:12 on the dot (appropriate since the year the School was founded was 1712), pupils together with alumni, staff, parents and the Holbrook Choral Society came together in the Holbrook Sound Hymnathon, which ran until 19:33 (in 1933 the School moved to Holbrook).

Hymns were sung just the way RHS likes them: a no-holding-back succession of Anglican bangers, with Jerusalem being so lustily sung that the chapel windows seemed likely to crack and the roof separate from the walls.

In the end, the total raised throughout the day was a fantastic £102,453 and, perhaps characteristically for RHS, was very much a team effort.

*"It doesn't take much for lots of people to club together and change the life of one child – of more than one child – because together we can launch 100 lives."*

**Debbie Hitchen, RHS teacher**

### PLEASE PARTNER WITH US!

If you have donated to the School at any time, we are very thankful. Your support has helped us to provide a unique RHS education to someone. We hope you have drawn satisfaction from your generosity, knowing it has benefited others.

If you haven't already, please consider us and this worthwhile cause! Without your support, we cannot make the difference we want to 100 young lives.

### REGULAR GIVING: DIRECT DEBIT SIGN UP (EDIRECTDEBIT.CO.UK)

A regular gift helps us plan for current and future bursaries, and helps us know how much income we'll have in the future.

It also allows you to plan your giving and gives you the flexibility to change it at any time. A monthly donation, of any size, helps us to budget and provide some consistency.

### ONE-OFF DONATIONS:

If you wish to make a gift by cheque, please make it payable to Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust and post to:

**Lauren Bayliss-Fuller  
The Alumni & Community Office  
Royal Hospital School  
Holbrook  
Ipswich  
IP9 2RX**

If you wish to make a bank transfer, please use the following details. Please use your initials and surname as a reference.

**Account Name:** Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust  
**Sort Code:** 20 65 68  
**Account No.:** 00988995

**Bank Name:** Barclays Bank plc  
**Bank Address:** 1 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HP  
**IBAN:** GB61 BARC 2065 6800 9889 95  
**SWIFT Code:** BARCGB22  
**CAF Beneficiary No. –** 81000753394

### LEGACY GIVING:

Leaving a legacy can be the greatest gift a person can make, a gift that the Royal Hospital School would be honoured to receive. A legacy gift to the Centennial Bursary Campaign would support future generations and launch a life.

If you plan to leave a legacy gift, it would help us to know your intentions so that we can honour your gift, and use it in the way you intended. Please contact Lauren Bayliss-Fuller, Head of Community and Alumni Relations: [lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org) | 01473 326 110.

*"It has given me stability that I wouldn't have otherwise had at home. I had people here that I trusted and that I could confide in. RHS is a safety net that you might not have at home. Everywhere you go, there's someone here for you."* **Lucie, alumna**



When we connect a gifted child to the legacy of our school we provide an attachment to purpose, a bedrock in their formative years from which curiosity, drive and resilience flourishes.

**PROFESSOR BERNARD DE NEUMANN, ALUMNUS (1943 – 2018)**





## Behind the scenes: Keeping RHS safe & sound

WITH 200 ACRES TO COVER, AND OVER 650 PUPILS AND 250 MEMBERS OF STAFF ON SITE, THE RHS SECURITY TEAM HAVE QUITE THE JOB ON THEIR HANDS. OPERATING BEHIND THE SCENES, THESE UNSUNG HEROES PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN CREATING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE.

For many alumni the idea of a security team is probably a new one, but in an era where educational institutions face an array of challenges, from potential external threats to internal safety concerns, the importance of a dedicated security team cannot be overstated. Lauren Bayliss-Fuller met with the team to explore just how important their roles are in keeping a busy school and site running smoothly.

Security Manager Paul Green is supported by his Deputy, Paul Bedwell, and Security Officers Ben Pooley (Collingwood, 2016) and Peter Callaghan. Really, they're responsible for more than just the site's security. Their multi-faceted roles also



You need good people skills for communicating, but also the confidence to challenge people politely but firmly.

include event set-up, portering and deliveries, car parking, signage and many other ad hoc jobs that come their way. Operating via a shift system, the team are always on hand, and the site is monitored 24 hours a day.

I ask Paul G what it takes to be a Security Officer. "It's such a varied job," he says. "You need good people skills for communicating, but also the confidence to challenge people politely but firmly. You need patience for stressful situations, and of course excellent organisation skills. Sometimes we have multiple events on the same day, and we're working with both internal staff and external organisations - it can get hectic at times!"

Paul B cites a highlight of the job being variety. "The interaction with so many different people is what I like," he says. "The team I work with are great, and we really do get to meet and work with lots of different individuals."

The team tell me they have had some interesting encounters over the years too, but those stories can't be printed! ■



### DAY-TO-DAY TASKS:

- Patrol premises and secure doors, windows and other entrances
- Monitor CCTV cameras
- Respond to alarms
- Check visitors in and out of buildings
- Set up for events

### EVENTS:

- Exams throughout the year
- Open mornings and taster days
- Concerts and dinners
- Speech Day
- Remembrance weekend
- Setting up for external events during the holidays
- Christmas Fayre
- Gig nights
- Parent consultations

### IN NUMBERS:

- Over 200 events per year
- 24-hour monitoring
- 4 members of the team

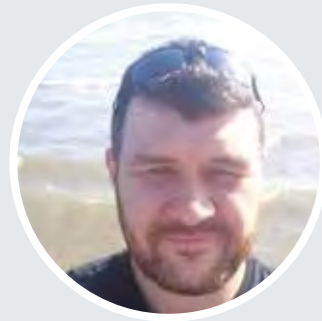
Previous page, from left: Paul Bedwell, Deputy Security Manager and Security Manager, Paul Green.

Top right: Paul Green with Security Officers Ben and Pete.

Bottom right: Security Officers Ben and Pete preparing for house deliveries.



# A FOND FAREWELL



**MATTHEW PARKER**  
(Hawke, 1998)

Matt was born in Gosport, Hampshire, where he grew up with two brothers and two sisters. He is remembered as a gifted sportsman; he loved the opportunities that RHS offered, and he thrived there.

Matt left RHS at 17 to join the Army. He was so proud, the day he signed up. He went on to serve in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers regiment, and obtained his Class 1 HGV licence which he went on to use after he left. He then moved to South Wales, where he did his sports degree, and later moved back to Gosport.

Matt was so proud to be a dad to his daughter and son, and they are the image of him. He taught them his cheesy dance moves and his confident character lives on in them.

Following his time and experiences in the military Matt was a huge advocate and supporter of the Help for Heroes charity. Like so many soldiers he had experienced losses of friends during his military career, and he was always someone who would check on his friends and support them. Matt had been struggling with his own mental health and, devastatingly, in July 2023 Matt took his own life aged 41.



**BRIAN HAWKINS**

Brian J. Hawkins (AKA Jobo) was born on Monday 5 August 1935. He married Ada Margaret Williams (Maggie) in 1958. Brian graduated from Reading University in 1957, and obtained his Certificate of Education a year later. Their twins, Alison and Paul, were born in 1964.

Brian taught at a secondary school near Walsall before joining RHS in 1962, teaching Geography at A level. In 1967 he became housemaster of St. Vincent - a position he held until the summer of 1983. In his time Brian was an accomplished sportsman. He played league cricket in the Midlands and was given a trial for Warwickshire, as well as playing for English Universities at football and a qualified F.A. coach. Brian was also a member of the School choir and occasionally a soloist.

After he retired in 1996, Brian and Maggie lived in Brantham. He carried on with his sport, coaching and cricket umpiring after retirement (often recruited by alumnus Don Topley), and playing bowls at RHS. Both he and Maggie maintained their musical links with RHS for many years via their ongoing membership of the Holbrook Choral Society.

Brian lost Maggie in 2007 but was self-sufficient right up until his own health started to fail. Brian died peacefully on 21 December 2022.



**RONALD HENRY BRYANT**  
(Anson, 1948)

Ron spent his childhood in Ely, Cardiff, before joining RHS after his father Harry, an Able Seaman in the Navy, was lost at sea when HMS Diamond was sunk in 1941.

The family military tradition was continued when Ron undertook his National Service in the Army, serving in Germany for the 'Queen's Bays' tank regiment. This was something he was very proud of, and he would often tell stories of his time in the Army.

After his national service, Ron's work as a lorry driver brought him to Carmarthen, which is where he and Eira met at The Old Bull Cafe. They married in 1965, and a year later their son Stephen arrived. Ron and Eira later ran The Old Bull Café between 1971 and 1978, after which Ron trained as a carpenter and worked for Carmarthenshire Council until his retirement. Carpentry always gave Ron great enjoyment, and he would spend many hours in his shed making things.

Ron's great passion throughout his life was gardening and his gardens were a sight to behold, always attracting compliments. It was a great comfort that Ron was still able to enjoy his garden before his health failed, and he sadly passed in August 2022.

# 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:

**MELVYN JAMES ADCOCK**  
(Cornwallis, 1952) March 2023

**JOHN ALFRED ATKINS**  
(Hawke, 1958) February 2023

**EDMUND STANLEY BARKER**  
(Drake, 1955) February 2023

**RONALD HENRY BRYANT**  
(Anson, 1948) August 2022

**JAK BLACKWOOD**  
June 2023

**ROBERT DANIEL BRISCOE**  
(Raleigh, 1985) June 2023

**COMMODORE CHRISTOPHER (KIT) CARSON**  
(Blake, 1954) July 2023

**JOHN CHARLES CLARKE**  
(Collingwood, 1960) July 2023

**PATRICK WILLIAM CLASH**  
(Anson, 1959) March 2023

**TERENCE COLBY**  
(Hood, 1953) September 2023

**DAVID WILLIAM CRICK**  
(Anson, 1947) April 2023

**RICHARD CROUCHER**  
(Drake, 1967) 2022

**WILLIAM CHARLES EDWARDS**  
(Nelson, 1943) June 2023

**ANDREW JOSEPH FOSTER**  
(Hood, 1985) November 2023

**JOY GOULD**  
September 2023

**PETER ROY GREENWOOD**  
(Anson, 1968) August 2023

**BRIAN HAWKINS**  
December 2022

**HERBERT LESLIE HEARN**  
(Cornwallis, 1947) March 2023

**STUART DAVID HUNTER**  
(Cornwallis, 1953) April 2023

**ROGER JONES**  
December 2022

**DAVID HARRY MARSHALL**  
(Anson, 1954) December 2022

**PAT MARCH**  
March 2023

**COLIN CLIVE MITCHELL**  
(Collingwood, 1953) May 2023

**MATTHEW PARKER**  
(Hawke, 1988) July 2023

**GRAHAM RONALD PHILLIPS**  
(Drake, 1961) January 2023

**RAYMOND ALBERT POINGDESTRE**  
(Drake, 1939) November 2023

**ERIC ST LEVAN REEVES**  
(Anson, 1940) December 2022

**JUNE RODWAY**  
July 2023

**PELHAM JAMES SHIP**  
(CORNWALLIS, 1959) January 2024

**BRIAN JOHN STEDDY**  
(Hawke, 1958) June 2023

**JOHN JAMES THOMAS**  
(Anson, 1949) May 2023

**FRANCIS WALTER JOSEPH THOMPSON**  
(Drake, 1947) March 2023

**DAVID CHARLES RICHARD THORN**  
(Raleigh, 1999) 2023

**ANDREW SWAN**  
(Collingwood, 1945) November 2023

**MALCOLM GARY TILLEY**  
(Cornwallis, 1969) 2022

**LEWIS TROKE**  
(Hawke, 1975) August 2023

**REGINALD JOHN VARNIS**  
(Anson, 1956) 2022

**HOWARD KENNETH WARREN**  
(Nelson, 1968) September 2023

**ROGER DAVID WELCH**  
(Drake, 1970) May 2023

**PETER JOHN ERNEST WELFARE**  
(Hawke, 1955) January 2023

**PETER ROBERT WHITE**  
(ST VINCENT, 1952) January 2024

**WILLIAM ANTHONY WILLSTEED**  
(Drake, 1959) February 2023



# Photographic memories

**Sean Wickens (Collingwood, 1981) recently retired and moved to the New Forest with his wife Kim. Whilst packing for the move, he came across something that sparked memories...**

While packing up our belongings to move house, I found this old black-and-white photograph depicting a earlier time in my life. The picture is of 5A during the summer term 1980. We are outside the Jellicoe Library about to head off to HMS Pembroke for the traditional outward-bound week held every year for the A and B streams upon completion of GCSE exams. Some of us would be leaving RHS directly after that, and some would be staying on for sixth form (Years 12 and 13 nowadays).

Looking at the picture and seeing the many faces of my old school friends evoked such memories. Mike Hale, best friend no less, aggressively running me into the wall bars at the gym as I almost got past him during a heated five-a-side football match. Richard Lett setting fire to his No.8 jacket in an attempt to dry it out during the very wet Exmoor camp. Don Topley launching another missile ball in house games, and George Franks with his early 'catch you out' photography.

Particularly vivid were those rare off-site trips playing hot summer fetes in full No.1 dress as part of the School Band with Mike Agar and Phil Raworth. I also remember the Baltic Cruise where Richard, Adrian Wheeler, Chris Penny and I spent much of our pocket money on KitKats and fizzy orange prior to sailing from Dartford, only to hit rough waters in the North Sea and re-distribute our ill-thought-out tuck feast on the side of SS Uganda. Then there was Tony

Hoy, Mr Cool, head down, always ensuring he was not too closely associated with any juvenile excitement. Further indulging, my thoughts drifted back to when I was regularly woken up to the clank-clank of Mr March turning the morning shower valve, the gruff bark of PO Kev Beaton shouting "get up!", followed by a brisk march to the Dining Hall for breakfast on a crisp January morning. I recalled those very early morning training sessions in that cold almost Olympic-size swimming pool, the 'F-tie F-F' rhythm as us New Jacks scrubbed and wax polished our day room's solid wood floors at the end of term in preparation for the legendary game of Bull Dog. Saturday's tea with chips followed by the monthly blockbuster film in the Assembly Hall was a lasting memory, and who will ever forget Divisions on a chilly Sunday morning followed by chapel?

As these memories flooded back, I recalled some wise words from Mr. Monty Callow. "Life here at RHS is all laid on for you boys, if you embrace it one day you will recall on how lucky you are." I left RHS in 1981, joining GEC Marconi to complete a five-year engineering apprenticeship. I went on to gain an HND in Electronic Engineering and a Master's degree from Solent University. Having held several Board-level roles with some of the UK's top engineering and construction companies, and now approaching 60, it feels like a good time for reflection.

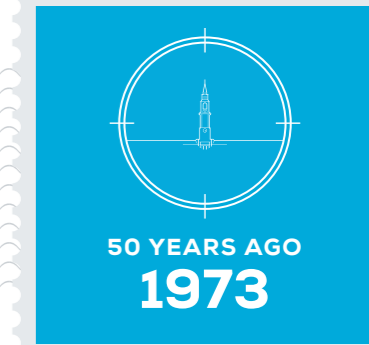
I have limited updates of those pictured but would love to know more if anyone reading this can help. The class of 1980 will be 60 years young in 2023. I hope they will join me in raising a glass, recalling RHS and all who sailed with her. How quickly those 43 years have flown and how lucky we were!

If you would like to get in touch with Sean, or you have any information about those pictured, please contact Katie in the Community and Alumni Office: [kgould@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:kgould@royalhospitalschool.org)



Sean believes this photo (left) was taken by Monty Callow, and he can identify Richard Lett, Don Topley, George Franks, Tony Hoy, Mike Agar, Mike Hale, Phil Raworth, Adrian Wheeler, and of course himself (second row, on the right).

## LOOKING BACK



### RHS 300 TERCENTENARY DINNER

On Friday 7 June the Headmaster, James Lockwood, welcomed what was considered the largest gathering of alumni and former staff and their families in many years. The Queen's House, where the School was founded 300 years ago, formed a majestic backdrop as guests enjoyed drinks in the colonnades.



At 7.10pm sharp a single bugle sounded, and a Guard of Honour lined the steps into The Painted Hall as guests made their way to their tables. Some had flown in for the occasion from as far afield as Canada, The Philippines, New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong. A three-course dinner followed, with animated conversation between old friends reverberating around the grand dining hall, while a string quartet provided a wonderful atmosphere. A truly memorable night!



### THE BAND AT LORD'S AND TWICKENHAM

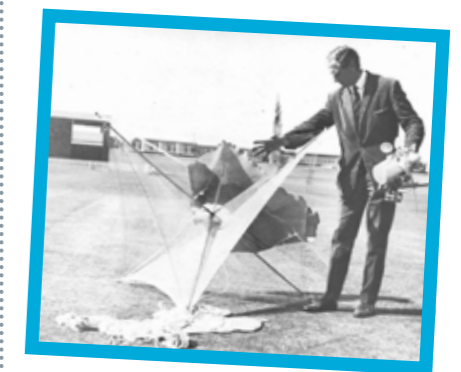
The RHS Band was privileged to perform at Lord's for the NatWest Cup Cricket Final on 5 September, and at Twickenham as the curtain raiser for the England v Australia Rugby International on 28 November. Due to their impressive performance, some of the RHS Band were invited to join the Band of HM Royal Marines on stage for the Annual Royal Marines Band Concert in aid of the King George's Fund for Sailors.



### WOULD RAIN STOP PLAY?

Predicating the weather for cricket season was on the mind in 1973 when staff tried to use a 'Radiosonde' to see if rain would stop play. "I thought we must be playing the Martians," said Mr Ben Wilson, head groundsman, when he first saw the odd contraption. The invention was used for recording weather conditions at heights of up to 10 miles above the Earth's surface.

The scientific instruments were carried up by a rubber balloon filled with hydrogen gas, which increased in size as it rose, before bursting, and a small parachute brought the instruments back to the ground. Rain still frequently stopped play, of course!



Mr Wilson is pictured with the Radiosonde.



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