

GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



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# LEAVE A LEGACY, CHANGE A LIFE

## SUPPORT THE CENTENNIAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN



At the Royal Hospital School, we believe in unlocking potential and creating opportunities for bright, deserving young people. The Centennial Bursary Campaign is at the heart of this mission, broadening access to an RHS education for future generations, widening the reach of its transformative power.

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To discuss your legacy or request an information pack, contact Lauren Bayliss-Fuller at [lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org)

**YOUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE - MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS FOREVER**



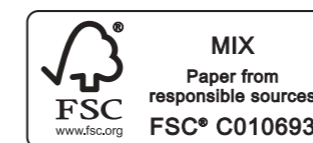
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Cover photo: Martin Patmore (Cornwallis, 1961), shares his life behind the lens.



## FEATURES



### RHS@25

William Milsom, who combines a passion for conservation with digital marketing at WWF-UK, reflects on his RHS journey and creating impactful change for our planet.



### TALK THE TALK

Discover the rich, unique language of RHS, steeped in naval tradition and camaraderie. We explore the colourful slang and timeless phrases that will bring back memories!



### GIVING BACK

Explore how RHS alumni are changing lives through extraordinary acts of generosity. From lifesaving adventures to community initiatives, discover inspiring stories that celebrate the power of giving back.



### INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR

Kesi Randon shares their journey from RHS to managing safety on iconic landmarks, advocating for neurodivergent inclusion, and reshaping health and safety practices globally.



### ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Eva Humphries shares her inspiring journey from corporate IT to founding Wholefood Warrior - to transform lives through nutrition, wellness and cookery demonstrations.



### LIFE BEHIND THE LENS

Martin Patmore shares his extraordinary journey from RHS to filming iconic TV shows and global documentaries. Discover his encounters with legends, adventures in conflict zones and passion for storytelling.



# Welcome



It is an extraordinary privilege to introduce myself as the new Headmaster of the Royal Hospital School, a place unlike any other. From my very first days in Holbrook, it has been clear that RHS is more than just a school – it is a community. The sense of belonging, the enduring connections and the shared experiences leave an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to call RHS home.

The warm welcome my family and I have received has been truly humbling. From pupils and staff to alumni, parents and governors, the depth of pride and affection for RHS is evident in every conversation.

This is a special place where friendships that stand the test of time are forged, strengthened by a shared journey of growth, challenge and discovery.

As I look to the years ahead, I am inspired by the opportunity to build on the remarkable legacy of my 11 predecessors and the achievements of this vibrant community. Together, we will ensure that RHS continues to thrive, blending the best of tradition with innovative approaches that prepare our pupils to excel in a rapidly changing and challenging world. Key to this vision is expanding our offerings, enhancing our sixth form and co-curricular provision, including an ambitious sports strategy, and deepening our global connections. These initiatives will reflect the values that have always defined RHS while creating new opportunities for future generations.

This edition of *Gidge* stands as a testament to the strength of our RHS family. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the editorial team for their hard work in bringing these pages to life, to the alumni team for their dedication in fostering lifelong connections, and to everyone who has contributed their stories and memories. Your efforts ensure that the bonds of the RHS community remain as strong as ever, and it is those very bonds that define this iconic and historic school.

As we reflect on the achievements and milestones shared within these pages, I am reminded of the extraordinary history and ethos that bind us together. RHS is a place that shapes lives, not just during our time here, but long after. To all our alumni, thank you for being part of this ongoing story and for continuing to inspire the next generation.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months and years to come, to celebrating your successes, and to working together to ensure RHS remains a place where lifelong friendships are made, and futures are shaped. I hope you enjoy my first edition of *Gidge*.

Warm regards,

**IRFAN H LATIF**  
HEADMASTER, ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

# A reflection on the past year



Reflecting on our time at RHS and the past year is a privilege that fills us with immense gratitude. As we navigate the first term of university, meeting new people and learning about their pre-university experiences, it's with a great sense of pride that we share our stories of RHS. This school shaped us in countless ways and, looking back, it's clear to see just how significant these moments were.

The past year was nothing short of extraordinary, offering the perfect conclusion to our seven years at RHS. Highlights included the House Shout competition and inter-house sports events like Sports Day and the whole-school cross country run. These events showcased the unwavering pride and dedication of pupils across the year groups, with all ages uniting to compete for their houses. A standout moment was the School's achievement in setting a world record for the largest number of people dancing the quickstep simultaneously during Giving Day 2024. Seeing everyone join in was a joy and a testament to the incredible community spirit that defines RHS.

This sense of community is something we've missed the most since leaving. RHS is more than just a school – it's a family for pupils past and present. Whether singing in Congo, hiking the Scottish Highlands on DofE, debating at MUN or sailing on Alton Water, the shared experiences and collective moments bind us to RHS and to one another. This enduring connection became even clearer when we returned as alumni for Remembrance. Giving a reading in the chapel and speaking with alumni from decades past showed us just how strong these bonds remain.

Our final year in Nelson was unforgettable. While we balanced the pressures of A levels and preparing for the future, we also immersed ourselves in the traditions and joys that make RHS so special. From dancing at Burns Night and the Sixth Form Ball to raising toasts at Trafalgar Night and singing in the chapel, these moments brought our year group together. It was heartwarming to see friendships deepen and new ones form, proving it's never too late to make lifelong connections.

Year 13 was filled with 'lasts' – our last first day of school, last school Christmas dinner, last lesson and last Divisions. Each of these milestones reminded us how precious time is and how quickly it flies by; we cherished the opportunity to appreciate everything RHS offered us one final time.

Joining the alumni community has only deepened our appreciation for RHS. The skills we developed, such as public speaking, time management, people skills and confidence, continue to benefit us at university and will do so beyond graduation. Meeting up with School friends over the holidays reinforces the lifelong bonds we formed. No matter where we go, we'll always carry a piece of RHS with us.

As we embark on new chapters in our lives, we do so with fond memories and immense gratitude for the incredible experiences, friendships and lessons RHS provided. Our school truly set us up for life, and we will always cherish the family we found here.

**WRITTEN BY MATHILDA KETTERER (CORNWALLIS, 2024) AND OLIVER GOODWIN-DAY (RALEIGH, 2024), 2024 HEADS OF SCHOOL.**



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## OH WHAT A WEEKEND!

IT WAS GREAT TO WELCOME ALUMNI FROM ALL GENERATIONS BACK TO RHS FOR THIS YEAR'S SUMMER REUNION. SATURDAY WAS A CHANCE FOR ALUMNI TO VISIT THEIR OLD BOARDING HOUSES, FOLLOWED BY A SCHOOL TOUR AND A BBQ, FROM OUR FABULOUS CATERING TEAM, OUT ON THE TERRACE.

Sunday was an opportunity to watch Divisions, during which the RHSA Heads of School medals were presented. This was the first time they were presented during Divisions and we hope this will be a new tradition! Leavers' Songs of Praise followed Divisions - this was a chance to hear the iconic Holbrook Sound. Lunch in the Dining Hall is always popular and it's safe to say the food has changed a lot since some of our alumni were at RHS!



All in all, it was a wonderful weekend which allowed for alumni to reconnect and reminisce about school days. Thank you to RHSA Vice President Monty Callow (Drake, 1974), and GC Secretary Nick Gill (Collingwood, 1988), for their support over the weekend.

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

## ALUMNI INSPIRE PUPILS IN POST-16 PATHWAYS PANEL

AS PART OF THE RHS CAREERS FAIR, THE JELLCOE ROOM BUZZED WITH ENERGY ON 17 JANUARY AS RECENT ALUMNI RETURNED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN A POST-16 PATHWAYS Q&A PANEL.

The panel featured Josephine Ruffles (Raleigh, 2020), Charlie Lewis-Booth (Cornwallis, 2021), Olivia Holt (Anson, 2020) and Georgia Ironmonger (Hood, 2023). Each offered unique perspectives on navigating life after RHS, including university, apprenticeships, gap years, travelling and placement years.

Discussions covered topics such as crafting CVs, utilising LinkedIn, searching for opportunities, and the importance of making the most of university resources. Networking and developing transferable skills also featured prominently in the conversation.



## THE BUTTON BOY RETURNS

IN A HEARTWARMING REUNION WITH THE SCHOOL, LESLIE SMITH (NELSON, 1960) RETURNED FOR A TOUR BEFORE ATTENDING THE SCHOOL BAND AND BIG BAND CONCERT ON 3 MAY, WHERE THE RHS BAND PERFORMED HIS COMPOSITION, *THE BUTTON BOY MARCH*. THE PIECE CARRIES A SPECIAL STORY TIED TO LESLIE'S OWN EXPERIENCES.



Leslie's inspiration for *The Button Boy March* dates back to 21 July 1961, when he served as Button Boy on the 142-foot mast at Ganges' Parents' Day. Although initially selected for the role earlier in the year, it was by chance that he ascended to the very top on the day HM Queen Elizabeth visited. Due to an unexpected injury to the scheduled Button Boy, Leslie stepped in to lead 80 Ganges boys up the mast, proudly saluting from the highest point. Leslie's return to RHS to hear his piece performed was a touching tribute to his remarkable experience.



## PODCAST WITH BARTY

IN THE JANUARY EPISODE OF OUR RHS PODCAST, WE GOT TO SIT DOWN WITH BARTY HILLS (COLLINGWOOD, 2006), HEAD OF RUGBY AND ASSISTANT HOUSEMASTER FOR ST VINCENT.

As captain of the first rugby team during his school days, Barty excelled in rugby, football and cricket, building the foundation of his lifelong passion for sport.

In this podcast, Barty shares memories from his time at RHS, the twist in his career path that led him back to the School, and how he navigated a brain tumour diagnosis with resilience and grit. He also speaks about his motivation to start a charity rugby sevens team and, intriguingly, the role a luxury super yacht played in his journey back to RHS. Listen here: [www.royalhospitalschool.org/news-and-events/podcast](http://www.royalhospitalschool.org/news-and-events/podcast)

## CRICKET AND CREATIVITY!

BACK IN JUNE, THE SCHOOL WAS HONOURED TO RECEIVE A STUNNING PAINTING GENEROUSLY PURCHASED BY AN ALUMNUS AND LOANED TO THE SCHOOL.

The artwork, depicting a lively cricket scene against the iconic RHS backdrop, was created by none other than Jack Russell, the celebrated former England cricketer turned artist. The painting now takes pride of place in the conference room, where pupils, staff and visitors can admire it. In a memorable presentation event, Jack Russell himself visited RHS to unveil the painting. He shared stories of his artistic journey and cricketing experiences, adding a personal touch to this significant occasion.



## RHS JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR

THE RHS JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR, HELD ON 15 MARCH, MARKED AN EXCITING FINALE TO BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2024 AND SHOWCASED THE INNOVATIVE WORK OF OUR YEAR 8 PUPILS.

We were honoured to have a panel of alumni and former staff serving as judges, including Ian Annett (Collingwood, 1984), previously Deputy CEO at the UK Space Agency and now founder of Celestial Fix; Oliver Bennett MBE (Anson, 1997), Head of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology; Dr Gemma Seabright (Cornwallis, 2011), a patent law specialist in biotechnology; Reverend Andrew Dotchin (Collingwood, 1974), who has a background in geological and quality control roles; and Christopher Chick, former RHS Head of Physics.



In the prize-giving ceremony, generously supported by alumni, awards were presented to outstanding projects.

These awards, along with medals also provided by RHS alumni, celebrated and supported the budding scientific talents within our community.

Adding to the day's excitement, Ian took time to captivate pupils with a talk entitled 'Space and Time', and provided inspiration into the possibilities within the field of science.

## NAVIGATING NEW HORIZONS WITH REBECCA TAYLOR-NEALE

IN SEPTEMBER, WE WELCOMED REBECCA TAYLOR-NEALE (CORNWALLIS, 2014) BACK TO RHS AS PART OF THE RHSXTRA PROGRAMME, TO INSPIRE OUR SIXTH FORM PUPILS WITH HER CAREER JOURNEY.

Initially pursuing a degree in fashion design, Rebecca pivoted to a career at sea, beginning a Deck Officer Cadetship in 2019.



Now serving as 1st Officer on the polar expedition ship MS Maud, she navigates through challenging Arctic waters.

Rebecca shared her experiences from the high-speed ferry Condor Liberation to the Navigator of the Seas cruise ship, shining a light on the vast opportunities in the Merchant Navy. She also spoke about her use of social media to showcase life at sea and inspire

others, emphasising professionalism online as her LinkedIn presence led to recent job offers.

Aiming to become a Captain, Rebecca's visit highlighted how much can be achieved, even when your pathway isn't what you originally planned. These RHSXtra sessions are perfect for connecting pupils with alumni who demonstrate that fulfilling careers can come from a combination of passion and resilience.



## GIVING DAY

**THIS YEAR'S GIVING DAY – FEATURING THE RHS COMMUNITY QUICKSTEP, A WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER PUPILS, PARENTS, STAFF, GOVERNORS AND ALUMNI – RAISED OVER £126,000 FOR THE CENTENNIAL BURSARY CAMPAIGN IN JUST 36 HOURS.**

The RHS Community Quickstep was a joyous and unforgettable event, with participants uniting on the parade ground in an ambitious bid to set a world record for the most people dancing the quickstep simultaneously. While the world record was a fantastic goal, the true success lay in the overwhelming support for the bursary campaign, which helps to provide life-changing opportunities for talented pupils who might otherwise be unable to attend RHS.

RHS's innovative approach to engagement didn't go unnoticed, the Giving Day campaign was later shortlisted for the IDPE Development Awards in the Engagement Campaign of the Year category, highlighting its creativity and impact in bringing the School community together.

To our alumni, we extend heartfelt thanks. Your generosity and enthusiasm continue to shape the future of RHS and provide invaluable opportunities for the next generation. Together, we've proven that the RHS spirit is as vibrant and united as ever.



## FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE BOOKSHELF

**KIRBY-LEE STALTARI (NÉE DINGWALL, HOOD, 2010) DREW UPON HER CHILDHOOD MEMORIES FROM WRABNESS WOODS TO CREATE A HEARTWARMING CHILDREN'S BOOK, ALBERT ACORN – BIRDWATCHING.**

This charming tale follows the adventures of a spirited acorn, who learns that even the smallest among us can grow into something mighty. With its charming illustrations and universal message, the book has been praised for inspiring young minds to dream big and embrace their potential.

For Kirby-Lee, the nurturing environment and strong sense of tradition at RHS shaped her creativity and determination. "RHS taught me to believe in myself and the impact I could make," she said. "I hope Albert Acorn encourages children to see their own potential, no matter how small they might feel."



## CRICKET FESTIVAL SUCCESS

This year, the annual Minor Counties Cricket Festival, organised by Don Topley (Raleigh, 1981), brought together cricket enthusiasts of all ages for a celebration of the sport.

The event showcased competitive matches, skills-building sessions, and an opportunity for young cricketers to learn from seasoned players. Don's commitment to promoting cricket at the grassroots level shone through as he encouraged sportsmanship, skill development and a love for the game.

## REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND 2024

**REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND IS ALWAYS A HIGHLIGHT IN THE RHS CALENDAR, AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION, WITH ALUMNI AND FORMER STAFF RETURNING TO MARK THE OCCASION.**

Saturday was packed with energy and nostalgia. David Danks (St Vincent, 1981) kicked off the weekend with a stirring performance on the bagpipes. Alumni triumphed in both the sailing regatta and the hockey match – their first hockey win since 2019! Special thanks to David Sewell (Howe, 1985) for providing the smart alumni team tops.

Sunday's parade was a particularly proud moment, as the alumni squad joined the pupils on the parade ground. Neil Williams (Drake, 1988) led the squad with Simon Tripp (Raleigh, 1988) carrying the banner, and their polished

performance earned high praise from WO1 (RSM) Karl Weaver, who called it the best alumni squad he's seen in his 15 years at RHS. After Divisions, the Chapel Service and Act of Remembrance in the Memorial Garden offered poignant moments to reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before us. Drinks in the Music School and a Sunday lunch in the Dining Hall gave everyone the chance to catch up and reminisce.



## CELEBRATING MR LOVELAND'S RETIREMENT

**AFTER 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE, ANDREW LOVELAND, OUR LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER OF STAFF EVER, RETIRED FROM RHS.**

Since joining as a maths teacher and resident tutor in 1984, Mr Loveland has taken on various roles, including Housemaster of Collingwood and Exams Officer, while witnessing transformative moments in RHS history, such as the introduction of girls in 1991.

"RHS has been a wonderful place to work, live, and raise our children," he reflected. "I feel very fortunate to have worked with amazing teachers and pupils over the years." As he steps into retirement, Mr Loveland looks forward to family time with his new grandson, Henry, and enjoying a well-earned rest. On behalf of the RHS community, we extend him our deepest gratitude and best wishes.



# 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 William Milsom (Raleigh, 2017).*



**FROM CHERISHED SCHOOL MEMORIES TO LEADING CONSERVATION INITIATIVES AND A DIGITAL MARKETING ROLE AT WWF-UK, WILLIAM'S CAREER PATH WAS NOT THE LINEAR KIND THAT INVOLVED A STRONG SENSE OF CERTAINTY FROM THE OFF; HERE HE SHARES HOW HE FOUND HIS DIRECTION IN LIFE.**

Although we speak to some alumni who leave school with a very clear idea of where they are heading and what they want to achieve career-wise, we meet at least an equal number of those who aren't initially quite sure, but find their place, one way or another. In a fairly time-honoured tradition, William Milsom initially followed his academic nose to study English Language and Communication at Oxford Brookes University.

"I had no clue what I wanted to do with my life, only that I enjoyed English at RHS, so that seemed like a good place to kick off life after school," he explains. "The entire English department were the only reason I pursued a degree. From Miss Hewitt instilling a bookworm in me, Mr Hodson's hilarious banter-filled lessons, and Mr Madge's somehow genuine enthusiasm for Halliday's *Metafunctions!*"

Work experience is often an opportunity to dip a toe into the water, and figure out what type of career is or isn't for you, but William took the metaphor quite literally. "My first-ever experience of a marketing department was at Finisterre during a month-long work placement at their headquarters in St Agnes, Cornwall. I wish I could say my application was driven by the passion of an aspiring young marketer, but in truth, it was simply fuelled by the hope of catching a few Cornish waves!" he admits. "Yet once I arrived, I was hooked. My concept of work was a suited-and-booted, stuffy and stressful office environment, but I was met by a relaxed and creative atmosphere - one that I was genuinely excited to be a part of."

Fresh out of uni, William landed a role as a marketing assistant at an international marketing agency, where he said 'yes' first to pretty much any marketing task offered, whether he felt confident in his knowledge or not, and figured it out afterwards. "Luckily, I had some great mentors that helped my development, and slowly, somewhere along the way, winging it turned into actually knowing it. After a couple of marketing manager roles in the agency and education sectors, I ended up obsessed with all things digital marketing strategy," he recalls.

Career aside, William explains that he had always dedicated his time and effort toward conservation: "I went on beach cleans, volunteered at Sea Shepherd raising awareness about illegal whaling, and eventually co-founded my own environmental movement in Perranporth called The Human Chain, which recently featured on ITV and the BBC."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, personal and career passions have now converged in one single purpose, and he began his new role at WWF-UK recently.

"My day-to-day campaign work at WWF is by far the highlight of my career to date," he enthuses. "The next 10 years will shape the future of life on our planet, and in that time, I could not think of a better use of my



Top: Aerial view of The Human Chain in Perranporth.

Above: William co-founded his own environmental movement, with The Human Chain featured on ITV and the BBC.

determination and effort than for protecting and elevating the profile of a brand at the forefront of the climate crisis."

William credits his time at RHS in giving him the attitude he needed to pave the way to this perfect merging of interests and professional skills. "Truthfully, I'm not sure I was ever a particularly memorable student. Academically, I was never overly gifted, and in sport I was more than a bit vertically challenged, but that didn't stop me from truly loving my time and receiving some incredible support from the teachers. I really had to fight for my position in sports teams and revise twice as much for decent grades," he muses. "I think those challenges made me want to prove a point and taught me that my successes were more determined by my work ethic than my ability."

So what advice would he give to current RHS pupils about preparing for life after school? "Get involved," he answers quickly. "During my time at RHS, it took me far too long to pluck up the courage and take part in the countless clubs and opportunities on offer. The time flies by, and before you know it, it'll be your turn to sing *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* for the last time." ■

# Kesi Randon: Championing safety and inclusivity in every space



*Kesi Randon (Cornwallis, 2011), took time out to speak to Lauren Bayliss-Fuller about their career path since leaving RHS.*

**WHEN YOU THINK OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, THE TYPICAL IMAGE MIGHT INVOLVE CLIPBOARDS AND CAUTION SIGNS, BUT FOR KESI RANDON (CORNWALLIS, 2011), IT'S A WORLD OF DYNAMIC CHALLENGES - FROM MANAGING SAFETY ON ICONIC SITES TO CHAMPIONING NEURODIVERGENT SUPPORT NETWORKS. KESI'S STORY IS ONE OF RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION, FUELLED BY THEIR ADHD DIAGNOSIS AGED 26 AND A COMMITMENT TO MAKING EVERY ENVIRONMENT, FROM BUSTLING CONSTRUCTION SITES TO PUBLIC SPACES, SAFE FOR MIND AND BODY.**

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

Since leaving RHS, my path has been anything but conventional. I started in civil engineering, but quickly realised my passion lay in health and safety, focusing on the human aspects of construction. My career began with Balfour Beatty, where I managed safety initiatives and advocated for mental health support - a critical need in construction, given the industry's high suicide rates. I later worked with CHAS, assessing health and safety management systems, often collaborating with smaller contractors to make compliance more accessible. My journey in health and safety led me to unique projects, including work on Big Ben and the Natural History Museum, which gave me hands-on experience with diverse safety protocols. Currently, I work with Foster + Partners, specialising in safety for architectural projects around the world.

#### **WHAT ARE SOME STANDOUT MOMENTS IN YOUR CAREER?**

Working on Big Ben was unforgettable; it's quite exceptional to be able to say you've helped manage health and safety on one of the UK's most iconic landmarks! Later, at the Natural History Museum, I had the unusual task of ensuring safety in labs with hazardous substances and even radiation. It was there that I first began thinking about inclusive design and psychological safety, concepts that go beyond mere physical protection.

More recently, my role with Foster + Partners has allowed me to focus on psychological safety, particularly in public spaces. I've conducted safety audits as

part of the London Mayor's Night Safety Charter, aiming to make city spaces welcoming and secure for everyone. This work aligns with my personal experiences and the belief that true safety encompasses both physical and mental well-being.

#### **HOW HAS YOUR ADHD DIAGNOSIS IMPACTED YOUR CAREER?**

Receiving my ADHD diagnosis as an adult was a turning point. It brought clarity and helped me understand why I struggled with certain rigid processes in earlier roles. In health and safety, every day is different, and that variety is essential for me. I've discovered that my ADHD actually makes me great at what I do because I'm constantly looking for innovative ways to adapt safety protocols to diverse needs.



Don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do... Neurodivergent people bring a unique perspective to every industry - we need your voice.

**KESI RANDON  
(CORNWALLIS, 2011)**



The diagnosis also drove me to support others. After my own challenges, I became deeply involved with ADHD Babes, a support group for Black women and gender-diverse people with ADHD. Eventually, I became a director, helping grow the group to serve thousands with career workshops, therapy, and even a free diagnosis programme to address the barriers many neurodivergent people face.

#### **CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT BEING NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL NEURODIVERGENT WOMEN IN 2022?**

I'd been challenging industry norms, pushing for inclusive practices that transcend checklists to genuinely support diverse teams and communities. For me, this award wasn't just a personal achievement, it was a step forward for the neurodivergent community in professional spaces that often overlook or underestimate our abilities. It felt like a celebration of everything I'd worked for, both personally and professionally.

#### **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT RHS STUDENTS INTERESTED IN HEALTH AND SAFETY OR NEURODIVERGENT ADVOCACY?**

Don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do. Health and safety is often misunderstood as a tick-box exercise, but I've learned it can be an incredibly dynamic field that lets you think creatively. As someone who didn't fit the mould, I use my experiences to inform and improve safety practices. And remember, neurodivergent people bring a unique perspective to every industry - we need your voice.

#### **WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?**

Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue merging safety, inclusivity, and advocacy in meaningful ways. Whether it's influencing the design of public spaces, supporting neurodivergent professionals, or challenging how we think about safety in the workplace, I hope my work inspires others to see the potential in thinking differently. My journey is far from over, and I'm committed to creating environments - physical and psychological - where everyone can feel safe, seen, and valued. ■

# Talk the talk!

## A language of our own

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL IS STEEPED IN TRADITION, AND NOWHERE IS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE UNIQUE LANGUAGE THAT HAS EVOLVED WITHIN ITS WALLS. FOR GENERATIONS, PUPILS HAVE USED A DISTINCTIVE VOCABULARY THAT REFLECTS THE SCHOOL'S NAVAL HERITAGE, DAILY ROUTINES AND THE CAMARADERIE OF LIFE AT RHS.

This lexicon, passed down from one cohort to the next, offers a glimpse into the spirit and history of the School. While we can't possibly capture every word or phrase, and we know that for each generation things may be slightly different, this article will highlight some notable examples and invite alumni to share the expressions that made their RHS experience.

### NAVAL LINKS AND NAUTICAL NUANCES

Founded to prepare boys for naval service, RHS has long been associated with maritime traditions. This influence permeates not just the School's customs but also its language. Many of the words and phrases used by past pupils are rooted in naval terminology, creating a shared code that connects generations of RHS alumni. From references to uniforms to the daily rituals of school life, these expressions were more than just slang; they were a badge of belonging.

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE RHS LANGUAGE

Language, like many things, evolves over time. While some terms have faded into history, others have stood the test of time. Pupils today still use words that highlight the School's rich heritage and daily routines. For example, meals such as breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all referred to as 'mess'. 'Standeasy' is used for breaktime, a short pause in the day's activities, while 'stations' refers to allocated jobs in the boarding houses, ensuring that everyone



plays a role in the smooth running of their shared space, keeping everything 'ship shape'. The daily flag ceremonies, the formalities of parades, and even the quirks of the dining hall all contribute to a living language that is uniquely RHS.

Even within the Futures and Alumni Office, some of these phrases live on, adding a touch of RHS spirit to our daily lives.

### A SNAPSHOT OF RHS VOCABULARY

RHS pupils had a vibrant and colourful array of expressions that would mystify any outsider. On the facing page are some examples that highlight creativity and humour and give more than a hint of what life was like! Do you remember these? ■



| WORD                                | MEANING                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scran                               | A term for food or a meal                                                                        |
| BP                                  | The 'Big Puddle', or swimming pool                                                               |
| LOBS ( <i>Look Out Boy Sailor</i> ) | A warning of a teacher approaching                                                               |
| Keep LOBS                           | Watch out for figures of authority                                                               |
| Kakkers prep                        | Homework, study periods or the last 'prep' of term                                               |
| Bandy                               | School bandmaster                                                                                |
| New Jack                            | New boy                                                                                          |
| Old Jack                            | Boy who had been at RHS over two years                                                           |
| Scheme                              | Work shy / to skive                                                                              |
| Gidge                               | Hat worn with No.1s                                                                              |
| Silkie                              | Scarf                                                                                            |
| PO                                  | Petty Officer (prefect)                                                                          |
| Heady                               | Headmaster                                                                                       |
| Worgy                               | Maintenance staff                                                                                |
| Cladders                            | Classrooms                                                                                       |
| Dosh                                | To steal                                                                                         |
| Up capo                             | Top of the table                                                                                 |
| Down bolt                           | Bottom of the table                                                                              |
| Duff                                | Any kind of cake                                                                                 |
| Foundation duff                     | Special cake or pudding, like Christmas pudding                                                  |
| Keeno/keenie                        | Someone who volunteered or tried hard (and you were teasing them for it)                         |
| Flop, gunge and squidge             | Butter, jam and marmalade                                                                        |
| Skirmish                            | Pick litter in a line                                                                            |
| Ox in                               | To jump the queue                                                                                |
| Packdirt                            | The pile of sweepings and the dustpan and brush then used to collect                             |
| Lick                                | Doing a lick was trying to gain favour with someone in power! A person who did this was a licker |

### Now it's your turn!

We've only scratched the surface of the words and phrases that make up the RHS vernacular. Everyone's experience is unique, and we're certain there are countless more expressions that have resonated over the years. That's where you come in.

Did we miss a favourite term from your time at RHS? Perhaps you remember a phrase that brings back memories of early mornings, challenging lessons or moments of mischief. Does anyone actually know where the term Gidge came from?

Send us your memories and expressions, the ones that capture the essence of your RHS days. Whether it's a word still in use or one that's been lost to time, your contributions will help keep this unique legacy alive.



# Warrior spirit

*What does it take to blend entrepreneurial grit with personal passion? For **Eva Humphries** (Howe, 2006) it's about embracing failure, finding joy in the unexpected and carving out a space for herself in her chosen niche, as she tells **Lauren Bayliss-Fuller**.*

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR CAREER, AND HOW IT LED TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?**

I didn't start anywhere near my eventual passion. After leaving RHS, I enrolled at the University of Nottingham to study for a degree in geography. But three months in, I realised it wasn't for me, so I pivoted into IT and spent eight years climbing the corporate ladder, building expertise in business development and account management.

The turning point came when I was working on a high-end nursery contract. I was tasked with supplying iPads to a classroom full of toddlers, and something just didn't sit right. I thought, "What am I doing?!" I wasn't contributing to society in a way that aligned with my values, and it felt morally wrong. That's when I knew I needed to find something more meaningful to do.

**WHAT LED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN NUTRITION?**

I started reflecting on what genuinely excited me, and food kept coming to mind – it's always been a passion of mine. But instead of training as a chef, which didn't really appeal, I began a nutritional therapy course with the Institute for Optimum Nutrition. It combined everything I loved: food, health and helping people. I knew I'd found my path.

**HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE NAME WHOLEFOOD WARRIOR?**

It actually came from a tongue-in-cheek moment! I was in a supermarket checkout queue, hungry and surrounded by junk food, and I thought, "The only warrior spirit I need today is to resist all this!" The name stuck, and it ended up becoming the foundation for my brand.

**WHAT DOES YOUR WORK LOOK LIKE TODAY?**

My time is split across three main areas: nutritional therapy, cookery demonstrations and consultancy. In therapy, I focus on complex cases like Type 2 diabetes and metabolic disorders, working closely with private GPs and endocrinologists.

I also bring healthy eating to life with cookery demos at food festivals across the UK, including the BBC Good Food Show and Chatsworth Country Fair.

On the consultancy side, I work with the NHS and care homes to address the unique nutritional needs of over-65s. It's incredibly rewarding, as better nutrition can help residents thrive and even regain lost independence.

**WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AS AN ENTREPRENEUR?**

It hasn't been an easy journey. My first venture – giving public nutrition talks



in community halls – was a total failure. But failure has been my greatest teacher, because it forced me to reassess and refine my approach.

One of my biggest breakthroughs came when I said 'yes' to every opportunity, including a last-minute slot at a food festival, on the schedule right after Tom Kerridge. I had no idea what I was doing, but I went for it. Taking that risk opened the door to dozens of other festivals.

**WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WELLNESS AND NUTRITION?**

For me, nutrition isn't about kale or calorie counting – it's about energy, joy and living fully. I want people to wake up feeling good and go to bed satisfied. In my own life, I strive for balance. I recently completed a Master's degree while also running my business, but I've decided to slow down a little next year to appreciate everything I've accomplished.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS?**

Don't fear failure. The best lessons come from trying, failing, and trying again. Also, commit to being an expert in your field – never stop learning. And manage your expectations; success isn't instant. It takes time to build connections, gain experience and figure out what works.

If I could go back, I'd tell my 18-year-old self to take time before diving into university – travel, work... just gain some life experience. Education is so much richer when you've got perspective to bring to it.



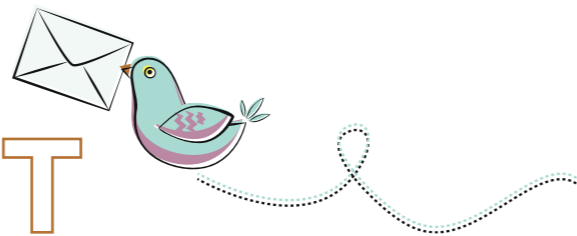
**WHAT'S NEXT FOR WHOLEFOOD WARRIOR?**

I've had nearly a decade of food festivals, thousands of consultations, and countless lives improved. Looking ahead, I want to deepen my connection with my work while maintaining the versatility I love. I don't need millions in the bank, what matters to me is the freedom to do what I love and make a real difference. ■

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EVA'S WORK AT [WWW.WHOLEFOODWARRIOR.CO.UK](http://WWW.WHOLEFOODWARRIOR.CO.UK), AND INSTAGRAM @WHOLEFOODWARRIOR



# PIGEON POST



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

## LIFELONG DEDICATION TO EQUINE WELFARE



Since his time as Head of House in Drake, Tony Smith (Drake, 1956) has been passionately involved in various pursuits, including competitive sailing, where he led his team to victory as coxswain. Now, he channels his energy into a cause close to his heart: equine rescue and rehabilitation.

In 1972, Tony founded the Brownbread Horse Rescue Centre, which has since flourished under his stewardship. The charity, which now boasts over 900 supporters, receives daily donations of feed and other essentials, enabling it to continue its vital work for horses in need. Despite being officially retired, Tony remains committed to the Centre, which he runs tirelessly, often putting his love of sailing on hold to fulfil the demanding responsibilities.

Tony's passion for conservation and animal wellbeing also extends to the meadows of Special Scientific Interest in Wealden, where he plays a key role in protecting species. While he may feel somewhat isolated in this wilderness, he finds fulfilment in his work and looks forward to hearing from fellow alumni about their experiences. His book, *Four Legs and a Neigh*, is available on Amazon. Find out more about the charity here: [www.escis.org.uk/charities-funding-and-volunteering/brownbread-horse-rescue/](http://www.escis.org.uk/charities-funding-and-volunteering/brownbread-horse-rescue/)

## A LIFE WELL-TRAVELLED, REFLECTIONS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Chris Ingram (Raleigh, 1956) dropped the RHS Futures and Alumni office a line, to let us know how life has been treating him since leaving RHS.

"Looking back on my time since leaving Raleigh 70 years ago, it's been a wonderful, adventure-filled journey that eventually led me to New Zealand.

"Throughout my life, I've been guided and sustained by my RHS education – the activities, interests and friendships I formed there have been lifelong influences. Although I didn't pass the 11+ exam, RHS prepared me well, leading me to Edinburgh University to study dentistry. I worked in Shetland for a decade, then spent two 'hippy' years in the USA before crossing the Pacific as yacht crew from Fiji to NZ. Here, I resumed my dentistry career, married Canadian Jo Ann, and raised two sons while savouring New Zealand's beauty through hiking, kayaking, sailing, and biking.

"We welcome any RHSers passing through Tauranga, North Island, to pay us a visit!

"Last year, I biked the length of New Zealand, from Cape Reinga to Bluff's iconic signpost, and I'm hoping to attend the Remembrance Weekend in 2025 to reconnect with family and friends. Both my brothers, Tim (Raleigh, 1952) and Rob (Raleigh, 1966) – now a geologist in Johannesburg – also attended RHS. It's inspiring to see how our school has evolved, offering incredible opportunities that foster growth from the youngest pupils to adulthood. Thank you, RHS, from an 'old Jack!'"



Chris (in the middle) with his biking friends Geoff and John (all over 80!) in Bluff, South Island.

## RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON FOR SPINAL RESEARCH

Brian Wheeler (Howe, 1990) is set to run the London Marathon in April 2025, a remarkable achievement given his journey since May 2018 when he was paralysed and told he had less than a 20% chance of walking again! Refusing to accept this prognosis, Brian committed himself to intense rehabilitation, defying the odds and regaining his ability to walk (to find out more, see the 2021 issue of *Gidge*).



Now, he's channelling that same determination into raising funds for Spinal Research. His journey from paralysis to marathon runner is nothing short of inspiring, and his story lives out his mantra of "never give up."

Brian invites everyone to follow his progress on Instagram at [@the\\_paraplegic\\_runner](https://www.instagram.com/the_paraplegic_runner), where he shares his experiences and training milestones. If you'd like to support his fundraising efforts, donations can be made through his JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/page/brian-wheeler-1718984125008](http://www.justgiving.com/page/brian-wheeler-1718984125008)

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

## A RETURN TO EDUCATION AFTER 41 YEARS

Andy Harper (Hood, 1983) shares an inspiring update on their decision to return to full-time education, to facilitate a career change, after more than four decades.

"After a break of 41 years since I left RHS with 7 CSEs, I've taken a big step and returned to full-time education. I am now a month into a full-time A level equivalent course in Emergency Care Studies. It's harder than I thought, as everything is done via Teams and Word, neither of which existed in my school days! It's also odd being older than all of my tutors. However, with age comes discipline!



"My old physics teacher, Dibble Vingoe – who believed in me and told me to follow my dreams – would be so proud, as would my old biology teachers Mr Saunders and dear old Monty Callow."

## FROM BARTENDER TO HR: A JOURNEY AT SOHO HOUSE

Tom Boore (Drake, 2020) has been in touch to share what he's been up to since leaving RHS:

"Since graduating with a first-class degree from Pearson Business School in 2023, my journey has been both exciting and rewarding. As I explored my career options, I moved to London and joined Soho House as a bartender, and I quickly realised this was a company in which I wanted to progress and develop, both personally and professionally.

"Initially, I hadn't anticipated staying in the hospitality industry for long, but the fast-paced and demanding nature of this world motivated me to dig deeper. Drawing on my passion and experience in people management and high-end hospitality, I worked hard to transition into a role more aligned with my career plan. Just seven months later, I moved into a position within the Soho House Global Head Office as part of the HR team. In this role, my team and I support all the private houses across London, which is chaotic but inspiring.

"I'm eager to see what the future holds, with plans to further advance my career at Soho House and make a meaningful impact on the people side of the business."



## LONG FRIENDSHIPS ANCHORED IN SHARED EXPERIENCES



Ian Annett (Collingwood, 1984) got in touch to tell us that he recently attended a Royal Navy 40th anniversary reunion dinner for the September 1984 entry, in Dartmouth. "Four decades ago I had just turned 18 by a month, having finished my A levels!" he explains. "There were a few of us who kept in touch, about five in total, but three of us managed to get back to the reunion and I've included the photo here."

Left to right: Russ Eatwell (Blake, 1984), Sea Harrier pilot; Ian Annett (Collingwood, 1984), Weapon Engineer; Stuart Crozier (St Vincent 1981), Naval barrister.

## EMBRACING AUTHENTICITY

We're pleased to feature an update from Morgana Gosling (Anson, 1986), who has been on an inspiring personal journey and is making a real impact as an independent advisor.

"I am Morgana Gosling, and I was in Anson House from September 1981 to June 1986 (M Richens then). I always knew I was trans, so being in a boys' school was inappropriate for me. The fear I felt at school persisted and prevented me from transitioning for years.

"In November 2023, I had my gender affirmation surgery, but rather than ruing the past, I have decided that life is better lived looking to the future. In becoming myself, I have a confidence that I never had at school. This is largely due to no longer feeling afraid of being 'found out.'

"During my two-year journey, I have become an independent advisor to the police (regarding trans matters) and feel very proud that I helped draft their new trans policies.

"I believe passionately that no child should have to navigate their formative years living in fear. My message to any trans student is: it does get better. If you have someone you can speak to, it can really help. Transitioning has improved my life in many ways. If you feel you want to have surgery, I recommend it. Be true to yourself and don't live your life pleasing others."



## 67ERS AT 67: A REUNION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Remembrance Weekend 2023 marked a special reunion for a group of alumni who started at RHS in 1967, dubbing themselves the '67ers at 67'. It was lovely to hear from John Parkes (St Vincent, 1973), who reflected, "For many, including myself, it was the first time returning to RHS since leaving over 50 years ago. It felt like time to reconnect and, perhaps, exorcise a few old demons."

"Meeting up at the hotel bar, I was surprised by the camaraderie that emerged, as any lingering resentments from our shared boarding school days melted away in laughter and supportive conversation. It was clear our collective experience had bonded us in ways that time could not erode."

"Being there on Remembrance Sunday taking part in Divisions on the parade ground was almost surreal. Being in the chapel again, listening to that thunderous organ, completed the distant memories. It evoked all our Sundays after Parade when the Head of Music would blast out Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* as we filed to take our places in the pews, with the music almost vibrating in our bones."



## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Colonel (Retd) John S Doody FBCS FCMI CIP AISSP MIOD (Collingwood, 1958) retired in July 2024, bringing to a close a remarkable 66-year career. He recently got in touch and talked to the RHS Futures and Alumni Office about his life.

After a career spanning 66 years in Defence, the Intelligence Services, and industry, John finally hung up his boots in July 2024. He was a well-known figure in the cyber security world, particularly across government and on the conference circuit, where he chaired over 110 cyber security conferences in the UK and overseas. During this time, he also delivered 150 papers on information security, cyber threats, and countermeasures.

His distinguished military career saw him serve in the UK, Germany and the Middle East. Upon retiring from the Army in 1997, he accepted a senior appointment with the Communications Security Group (CESG), the defensive arm of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). In recognition of his work, John was awarded the CESG Director's Medal.

Following his time at GCHQ, John launched his own cyber security company, tirelessly promoting best practice for the nation. His efforts earned him a place in the Information Security Europe Hall of Fame, and he was affectionately known as the 'Godfather of UK Cyber Security'.

After the loss of his first wife in 2016, John remarried and moved to Chesterfield, where he now enjoys travelling the world with his wife, Jacqueline. The picture shows John at a recent military dinner with her by his side.

During the pandemic, John penned his autobiography, *From Stripes to Stars*, capturing key moments of his life, including his time in Collingwood House at RHS. His book is available to purchase on Amazon.



## FROM THE BBC TO BALEARIC BEATS

During a remarkable 27-year career with the BBC, Paul Riseley (Hood, 1990) spent two decades directing live news and sports broadcasts from studios and on location, navigating pivotal global events in real time and under pressure. He was at momentous occasions including Royal weddings, the Olympics, World Cups, and more challenging times such as 9/11, the Grenfell disaster and COVID, experiencing the dynamic, behind-the-scenes world of broadcasting and its most celebrated presenters including Jeremy Paxman, Fiona Bruce and David Dimbleby.

In 2015, he met his soulmate Katy in the newsroom, and together they embarked on a bold new adventure, leaving their BBC roles to move to Ibiza and embrace a vibrant island life.



With the legendary Peter Crompton, RHS Director of Music, as his inspiration, Paul transformed from Hood House to House music DJ, now spinning poolside tunes, headlining club residencies, and performing at private events across Ibiza. Perhaps his degree in Music from Trinity College of Music has helped? Though life under the Balearic sun is a far cry from directing in TV studios, he embraces this chapter with rhythm, resilience, and a nod to his RHS roots, proving that career journeys can truly take extraordinary turns.

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

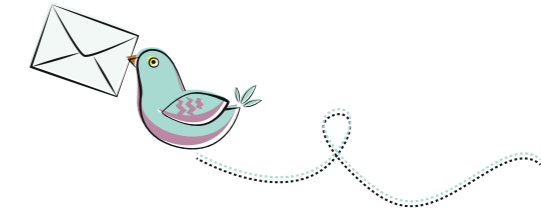
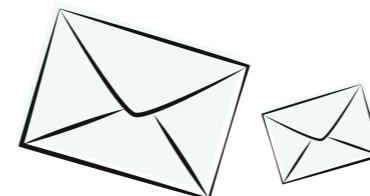
## HAWKE GOLFERS REUNITE FOR ANNUAL CHALLENGE

Thank you, Bob Alloway (Hawke, 1966), for getting in touch to tell us about the 2024 Hawke Golf Challenge, which took place on 23 July at Portsmouth Golf Centre, hosted by Alan Deadman (Hawke, 1963), who welcomed six fellow Hawke boys with breakfast at The Farmhouse beforehand. Laughter and nostalgic stories flowed as the group, boasting a combined age of over 500 years, reminisced. The attendees included Alan Deadman, Bob Alloway, Arthur Merchant (Hawke, 1970), Allan Saunders (Hawke, 1961), Jim Wright (Hawke, 1963), Ted Wright (Hawke, 1965) and Derek Corke (Hawke, 1965), with Peter McKenzie (Hawke, 1966) sending his apologies.



On the course, Alan, Bob and Arthur competed, while Derek accompanied them, perhaps for moral support (or a few chuckles!). In the end, Bob claimed victory, followed by Arthur in second and Alan in third. Back at The Farmhouse, Derek presented the trophy to Bob, and plans were made to meet again in 2025 at Weybrook Park Golf Club in Basingstoke.

Ex-Hawke golfers are always welcome to join the fun; email [kgould@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:kgould@royalhospitalschool.org) if you're interested!



## WEDDING BELLS ON THE HORIZON



We're delighted to update you that Claire Waugh (Cornwallis, 1999) and Howard Redwood (St Vincent, 1979) are getting married in the RHS chapel on 31 May 2025 at 3pm. The wedding service will be conducted by the RHS Chaplain, Rev'd Katherine Page and the music will be provided by RHS Emeritus and former Director of Music, Peter Crompton playing the Grand Organ. George Franks (Cornwallis, 1981) will be taking the wedding photographs. It's a true RHS occasion! Claire and Howard would like to extend an open invitation to all RHS alumni, former RHS staff

and the wider RHS community who might wish to attend the wedding service in the chapel. Exciting times ahead and a wonderful occasion to celebrate!

## STANDING STRONG WITH FARMERS AT WESTMINSTER PROTESTS

Liv Scott (Howe, 2019) has been in touch to tell us about the recent Westminster protests: "On Tuesday 19 November, farmers from across the country gathered in Westminster to protest Keir Starmer's recently proposed budget, which threatens to devastate farming families like never before."

"Organised in just 10 days, the turnout was remarkable, with thousands of farmers, along with friends and family, uniting to show their support. Heartfelt speeches highlighted the severe impact of the proposed family farm tax, leaving few dry eyes in a crowd of over 20,000."

Political figures including Ed Davey, Baroness Mallalieu and Kemi Badenoch joined the demonstration, underscoring the importance of cross-party and widespread backing. A surprise appearance by Jeremy Clarkson added to the momentum, as he urged the government to reverse its stance, support family farms, and prioritise Britain's agricultural future.

"Farming communities, often overlooked and undervalued, sent a clear message: they will not relent until the government acts to safeguard their livelihoods and ensures the nation's food security. This is not just a fight for farmers - it's a fight for everyone who depends on them."





### FROM RHS TO AUSTRALIA AND BEYOND

Paul Gomm (Collingwood, 1966) shares his journey from leaving RHS to move to Australia in 1966, and how his time at school prepared him for the challenges ahead:

“It’s hard to describe the culture shock of stepping foot on foreign soil – Sydney Harbour – and being greeted by an unfamiliar family with

strong accents, especially at the age of 14 after leaving RHS. My father had transferred from the Royal Navy to the Royal Australian Navy, and from that day in September 1966 I became a ‘dinky-di’ or ‘fair dinkum’ Aussie.

“The second shock came when I was enrolled in a co-ed high school and discovered strange but beguiling creatures called girls! Unlike RHS’s all-boy setup with communal showers and swimming lessons, these customs were a thing of the past. My tongue-in-cheek suggestion to reinstitute such practices wasn’t well received by the rather humourless principal.

“Following family tradition, I joined the RAN upon finishing school in 1970 and trained as a Midshipman. My RHS experience – on the parade ground, firing range, and in sports – prepared me well. My time in the RAN was full of challenges and surprises, including finding myself in a war zone in 1971, transporting Australian troops in Vietnam. The training, education, and camaraderie I gained at RHS gave me the confidence to tackle life’s many challenges. I trust current students will feel the same in 50 years’ time.”

### LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS, 50 YEARS AND COUNTING...

From their first days at RHS in 1973, Nick Pope (Howe, 1979) and his best friend Ben Bosustow (Howe, 1979) forged a friendship that has spanned five decades and across continents. Along with Dave Woodside (Howe, 1979), the trio formed lifelong bonds that continue to thrive, proving that the connections made at RHS truly stand the test of time.

Nick wrote to say, “Fifty years ago, during our first days as ‘new Jacks’ at RHS, ahead of the main school returning, I met someone who was to become instrumental in my life, my (still) best friend, Ben Bosustow. Ben ended up in New Zealand, and I ended up in Holland. Yet we still keep in touch and have stayed at each other’s homes, watching our families grow.

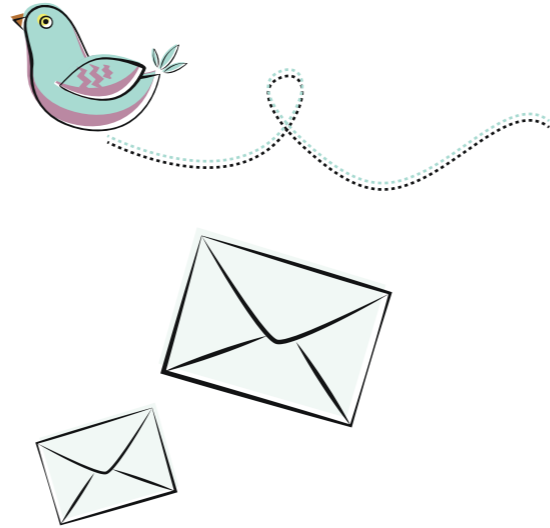
“Another person making up the ‘one for all, all for one’ trio was Dave Woodside. Dave and I have kept in touch and visited each other over the years. The ‘one for all and all for one’ must have limited our punishments, as two of us would always swear the third was with us when something inappropriate happened, ‘so it couldn’t have been him, sir’.”

“In February 2023, my partner and I visited Dave and his family to enjoy a supper of haggis and neeps in his beautiful home in Edinburgh. In October 2024, Ben was my house guest, stopping by for a couple of days during a family visit to Europe. We sorted out the whole world and put it to rights over a sherbet or two (perhaps more!).

“Wonderful friendships forged and kept, and the best thing is that we might not speak to or see each other for months, if not years, but when we do, it’s like we saw each other just yesterday.”



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

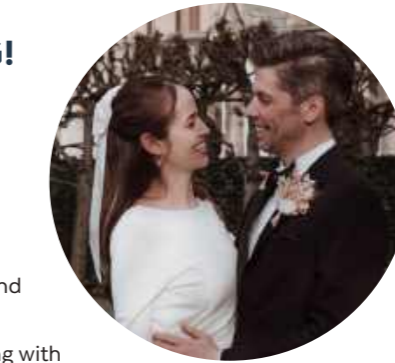


### FROM RHS CHOIR TO A WESTMINSTER WEDDING!

We loved hearing from Jemima Watling (Hood, 2011) about her recent wedding:

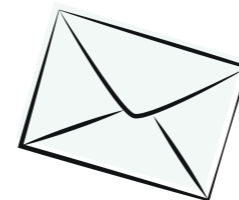
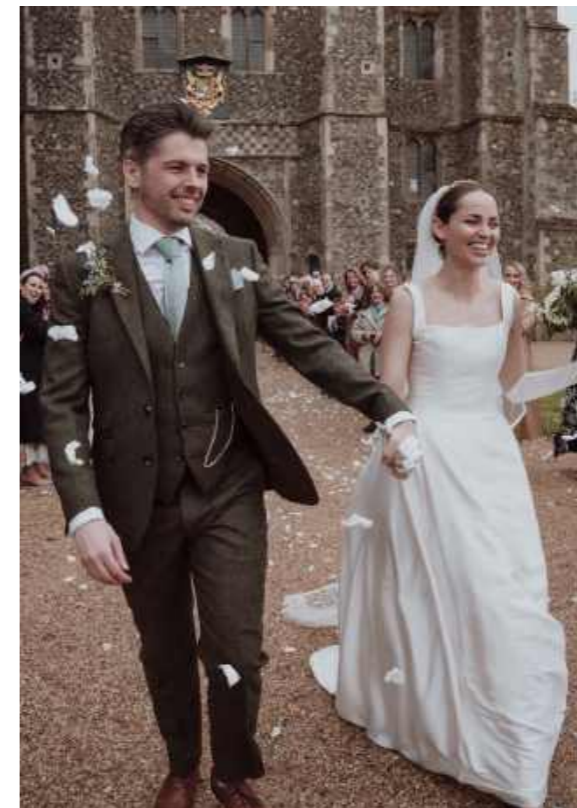
“I got married to my husband (Luke Lane) this past February, and Peter Crompton played the organ at my wedding! It took place in St Mary’s Undercroft under Westminster Hall. It was so special having my old choir master play for us and a true full-circle moment for me!

“My happiest memories at school include singing with the choir and performing in concerts. One moment that really stands out is playing Emma in the school’s production of *Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical*, which Peter Crompton directed. I went on to become a performer and shot my first



lead role in a film in Mexico this year. My husband is also a singer, and we regularly perform together; we have a few gigs coming up this Christmas.

“We then had a big white wedding with all our friends and family a couple of months later, for which my very good friend from RHS, Ailsa Munro (Hood, 2011), made my wedding dress. Ailsa and I took history of art classes together with Mr Ravenhall and have remained close ever since our school days. I had my twin sister, Buffy (Hood, 2011), and my friend Anna Hewitt (Hood, 2011), as my bridesmaids – they both attended RHS with me, and Anna’s mum Joanna was my housemistress! Joanna also joined us later on for our Irish ceilidh and disco.”



### FINDING NEW PURPOSE AT MENZSHED

After a long career in the maritime and engineering industries, David Richards (Drake, 1971) retired in New Plymouth, New Zealand, and found a new passion through the charity MenzShed. Like many, David faced the challenge of filling his time after retirement, especially following the loss of his wife to cancer in 2020 after 45 years of marriage.

In search of a meaningful way to stay active, David discovered MenzShed, a community space where men gather to work on projects, share skills and connect. For David, it has become a ‘place to be’, as well as a source of support and continued learning. He recommends MenzShed to anyone with time on their hands, saying it’s a great way to stay engaged and give back to the community.



David, who has lived in New Plymouth for 42 years, now spends much of his time woodworking, using scrap materials to create beautiful items like vases turned from old telegraph poles and bowls crafted from glued offcuts. His engineering background has been put to good use as he learns new skills with wood. He also enjoys visiting other ‘sheds’, both in New Zealand and during a recent trip to the UK, finding a warm welcome wherever he goes.

MenzShed, which began in Australia, has grown into a worldwide movement, providing men with a space to work, connect and share their experiences ‘shoulder to shoulder’. For David, the shed offers not only companionship but also a way to contribute to local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

To find a MenzShed in New Zealand visit [www.menzshed.org.nz](http://www.menzshed.org.nz) and in the UK visit [www.menssheds.org.uk](http://www.menssheds.org.uk)



# Giving back

*From volunteering in local communities to supporting global causes, RHS alumni and their selfless contributions inspire us all. In this special feature, we're proud to share the stories of those who dedicate their time, skills and passion to helping others. Read on to discover how these incredible individuals are making a lasting impact – and perhaps even find inspiration for your own journey of giving back.*



## VOLUNTEERING WITH THE RNLI, A LIFESAVING ADVENTURE



For the past two years, James Humphreys (Drake, 2024) has been volunteering with the RNLI at West Mersea, first through the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award, and then officially as part of the shore crew upon turning 18. The RNLI is not just about saving lives at sea, it's about the close-knit community it builds and the opportunities it provides to its volunteers.

James' role includes essential tasks such as maintaining and fuelling the lifeboat and cleaning it after rescues. These duties are critical in ensuring the crew is ready for action at a moment's notice. However, James is close to completing his training, which will allow him to join live callouts and experience the adrenaline of real-life rescues as part of the crew.

While the work is rewarding, it's not without its challenges. The situations the RNLI responds to can be intense, whether

it's dealing with a boat on fire, rescuing someone who has fallen from a yacht mast, or responding to a drowning incident. Among the most enjoyable aspects are the training exercises, especially those involving collaboration with the fire brigade or the police. Not every part of the job is glamorous. One memorable moment for James involved wading through a high tide at 3am, getting soaked to the bone, only to have to wade back an hour later, an experience he described as "the coldest ever!"

Volunteering with the RNLI is an adventure like no other, offering incredible training and the chance to meet people from all walks of life. For anyone thinking about joining, the message is simple: go for it!



**BE PART OF A LIFESAVING TRADITION, VISIT [WWW.RNLI.ORG/SUPPORT-US/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.RNLI.ORG/SUPPORT-US/VOLUNTEER)**



From left: Robert Bennett, John Seymour, Jeremy Gaskin (Jez), Richard Woollett.



## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH FOOD BANKS

At its heart, The Big Eat is more than just a street food festival, it's a brilliant example of alumni coming together to give back to the community in meaningful ways. Spearheaded by Jez Gaskin (Anson, 1990), this non-profit event is about addressing one of today's most pressing issues: food poverty. Every year, the festival donates proceeds to support local food banks, providing essential aid to those in need. 2025's festival takes place on 25, 26, and 27 May at Royal Victoria Country Park, and promises to be no different.

In 2023, The Big Eat raised £5,000 for the Hound Basics Food Bank, which supports families across the Southampton area during a time when food insecurity is at an all-time high. Each of the 50+ street food vendors contributed a portion of their earnings to the cause, and the public generously donated upon entry. The event showcased the power of community spirit and action, proving that even the simple act of enjoying great food can make a difference.

One of the festival's key strengths lies in a collaboration between RHS alumni, who have come together to make this event a success. Kevin Briscoe (Raleigh, 1983) and his PR team have been instrumental in spreading the word, ensuring the festival reaches new audiences every year. Benjamin Emanuel (St Vincent, 1990) is developing an app to enhance the visitor experience and David Sewell (Howe, 1985) has provided all the branded T-shirts, with Graham Ashford (Collingwood, 1987) contributing by organising the popular Deeds of Arms reenactments to entertain festival-goers.

Jez is always looking for new ways to expand the festival's impact and welcomes any alumni who wish to get involved as sponsors or volunteers. The Big Eat serves as a shining example of how RHS alumni can unite to not only create something extraordinary but also give back in ways that truly matter.



**FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.THEBIGEATFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEBIGEATFESTIVAL.CO.UK)**

## FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR TO CHANGEMAKER

Teniola Lamidi (Howe, 2023) has always had a heart for helping others, and she's continuing that passion in her current role at Head Held High, a social enterprise on its way to becoming a charity. During her time at RHS, Teni was the Chair of the Philanthropy Committee, where she led pupil-run initiatives to raise money for pupils' chosen charities. Now, she's taking that same spirit of giving into the wider world. Head Held High, founded in 2013, runs interactive workshops that aim to build confidence, resilience and life skills,

helping people break down barriers and thrive. To date, they've transformed the lives of over 1,000 care leavers, long-term unemployed individuals, lone parents and ex-offenders through more than 60 unique programmes. Teni is currently working alongside them to help ensure they can continue making this impact, particularly through events such as their annual charity comedy shows. Currently studying Criminology and Psychology at Royal Holloway, Teni is grateful to their careers team for connecting her to this opportunity through their summer skills programme. Now, coming full circle, Teni works as a careers coach herself, helping students with their own career journeys.



Teni recently organised her first event for International Women's Day, creating a space for women from different backgrounds to come together and support each other's growth.

Whether through her work at Head Held High or her volunteer efforts at university, Teni is helping to change lives, one meaningful project at a time.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [WWW.HEADHELDHIGH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HEADHELDHIGH.ORG.UK)**

## FROM GLOUCESTER TO GAZIANTEP!

In February 2023, alumnus Dave Stewart (Collingwood, 1985) found himself embarking on a life-changing humanitarian journey. After hearing about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and left many more displaced, Dave couldn't sit back and do nothing. With a background in volunteering, he had previously driven to Poland with his son, Dan, to deliver aid to Ukrainian conscripts. Now, a new challenge lay ahead: bringing essential supplies to the heart of the earthquake-ravaged regions of Turkey. When his wife, Sarah, forwarded a message from a local councillor seeking a volunteer driver for a 7.5-tonne truck loaded with humanitarian supplies, Dave knew he had to help. Despite not having driven such a large vehicle in years, Dave was determined

to make the journey. And so, on 16 February 2023 he and Dan set off from Gloucester, joining a convoy headed for Turkey. Over the course of five days, Dave and the team drove more than 3,000 miles through France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria before reaching Turkey. Along the way, they faced challenges including a blown-out tyre in Austria and a slow puncture in Turkey. Despite these setbacks, the team pressed on, driven by the knowledge that their efforts would bring vital relief to those in desperate need. Upon arriving in Gaziantep, a region heavily impacted by the earthquakes, the destruction was overwhelming.



Buildings lay in ruins, and many survivors had lost everything. Despite initial frustrations with bureaucracy, Dave's team persisted and were eventually allowed to distribute their supplies directly to those in need. Families, despite having lost so much, greeted them with gratitude, offering food, tea and smiles. Reflecting on the journey, Dave says, "We couldn't bring back their loved ones, we couldn't rebuild their lives, but we could offer some small comfort to ease their suffering."



## RIDING THROUGH HISTORY WITH THE BIG BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE

Paramedic, cyclist and fundraiser Danny Collins (Cornwallis, 1993) has turned his passion for biking into a powerful way to support veterans through the Big Battlefield Bike Ride (BBBR). Over the past three years Danny has ridden hundreds of miles through Europe, raising an incredible £9,000 for Help for Heroes, a charity dedicated to helping wounded veterans rebuild their lives. Danny's journey with BBBR began as a personal challenge, but it quickly became something much more meaningful. In his role with South Central Ambulance Service, he has encountered countless veterans in need of support, many of whom have benefitted directly from the charity's work. Inspired by their resilience, Danny decided to combine his love of cycling with a cause close to his heart.

stories of resilience as well as moments of reflection. The routes chosen take the riders through historic battlefields and significant wartime landmarks, with poignant remembrance services along the way to honour those who gave their lives in both World Wars and those who continue to serve today. Danny has completed three rides so far: 2022: 350 miles over five days from Nieuwpoort to Compiègne, following the Western Front and passing through The Somme. 2023: Another five-day, 350-mile route from Caen to Dunkirk. 2024: A four-day ride covering 250 miles, beginning at the beaches of Normandy and ending in Paris.

In 2025, Danny will embark on his most ambitious ride yet: a four-day journey from Buckingham Palace to Rheine. Beyond the physical challenge, these rides offer Danny time to reflect on his own journey and appreciate the sacrifices of others. He notes, "Everyone has their own battles to overcome, and for me, I use the time in the saddle to reflect upon my own journey."



**SUPPORT DANNY BY VISITING WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/FUNDRAISING/DANNYCOLLINSBBBR24**



## TWO WHEELS, ONE PURPOSE

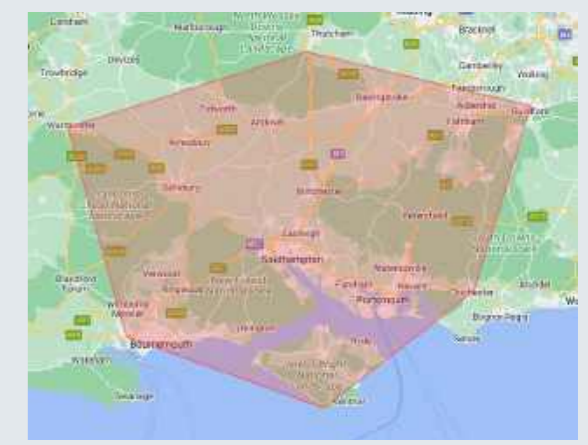


After more than 30 years in the Royal Navy as aircrew, including time as the Commanding Officer of a Search and Rescue squadron, Cdr Chris Canning (St Vincent, 1986) knew that his retirement wouldn't mean stepping away from making a difference.

"My time in the Navy gave me a real sense of purpose," Chris shares. "I'd been part of humanitarian missions and countless search-and-rescue operations. That desire to help people doesn't just disappear." His love of motorbikes played a big part in finding his next chapter. As a member of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Motorcycle Club, Chris was already involved in charity rides, including delivering Christmas gifts to children's wards and raising money for the BBC Children in Need appeal. So, when he began looking for volunteering opportunities after leaving the Navy, combining motorcycling with a way to give back seemed like a natural fit. Sadly, Chris's decision was also influenced by personal experience. "Both of my parents passed away from cancer and were cared for in their final days by a Macmillan Hospice team. That made me want to give back to healthcare in some way." As a blood biker, Chris wears two hats (or helmets, in this case), serving as both a rider and a dispatcher.

"Riders transport everything from blood products and medications to human breast milk, while dispatchers coordinate the shifts and routes," he explains. A typical shift starts with checking the air ambulance's needs for blood swaps and then planning pick-ups and drop-offs for hospitals or labs. "Some days are straightforward, but other times you're out for hours covering hundreds of miles," he says. "It can be physically demanding, but the work is incredibly rewarding."

Chris recalls one particularly long shift in the summer: "I was on the road for nearly eight hours and covered over 300 miles. It's tiring but knowing the impact you're having makes it worthwhile." "One of the toughest parts is supporting neonatal and maternity bereavement teams," Chris admits. "Having been through the stress of seeing my own son in a neonatal unit, I can relate to the families going through difficult times. It's a privilege to be able to help." In addition to blood products, blood bikers also transport donated breast milk. "We collect it from mums who have a surplus or, sadly, no longer need it, and take it to be screened and distributed to neonatal units. It's not something



people immediately think of when they hear 'blood biker,' but it's a vital part of what we do." Looking back, Chris credits both RHS and the Royal Navy for preparing him for this role. "Teamwork, independence, and resilience are key," he says. "As a rider, you're often working solo, but as a dispatcher, you're juggling tasks and coordinating a whole team. It's a mix of the skills I've developed over the years." His advice for anyone considering volunteering? "Just give it a go. There's something out there for everyone, whether you're front-facing or prefer working behind the scenes. It's about finding a cause you connect with and getting stuck in. You'll meet great people and, hopefully, feel like you're making a difference." ■



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BECOMING A BLOOD BIKER AT WWW.BLOODBIKES.ORG.UK**

*We know there are countless others who are giving back in meaningful ways and we are proud of each and every one of you. If you or someone you know is making a difference, we'd love to hear from you!*

# Martin Patmore

## A life behind the lens

**MARTIN PATMORE (CORNWALLIS, 1961), WROTE TO THE RHS FUTURES & ALUMNI OFFICE TO TELL US ABOUT HIS REMARKABLE CAREER IN TV – WHICH SAW HIM TRAVEL THE WORLD, WORK WITH NUMEROUS HOUSEHOLD NAMES, AND FILM EVERYTHING FROM BLUE PETER TO CIVIL WAR NEWS.**

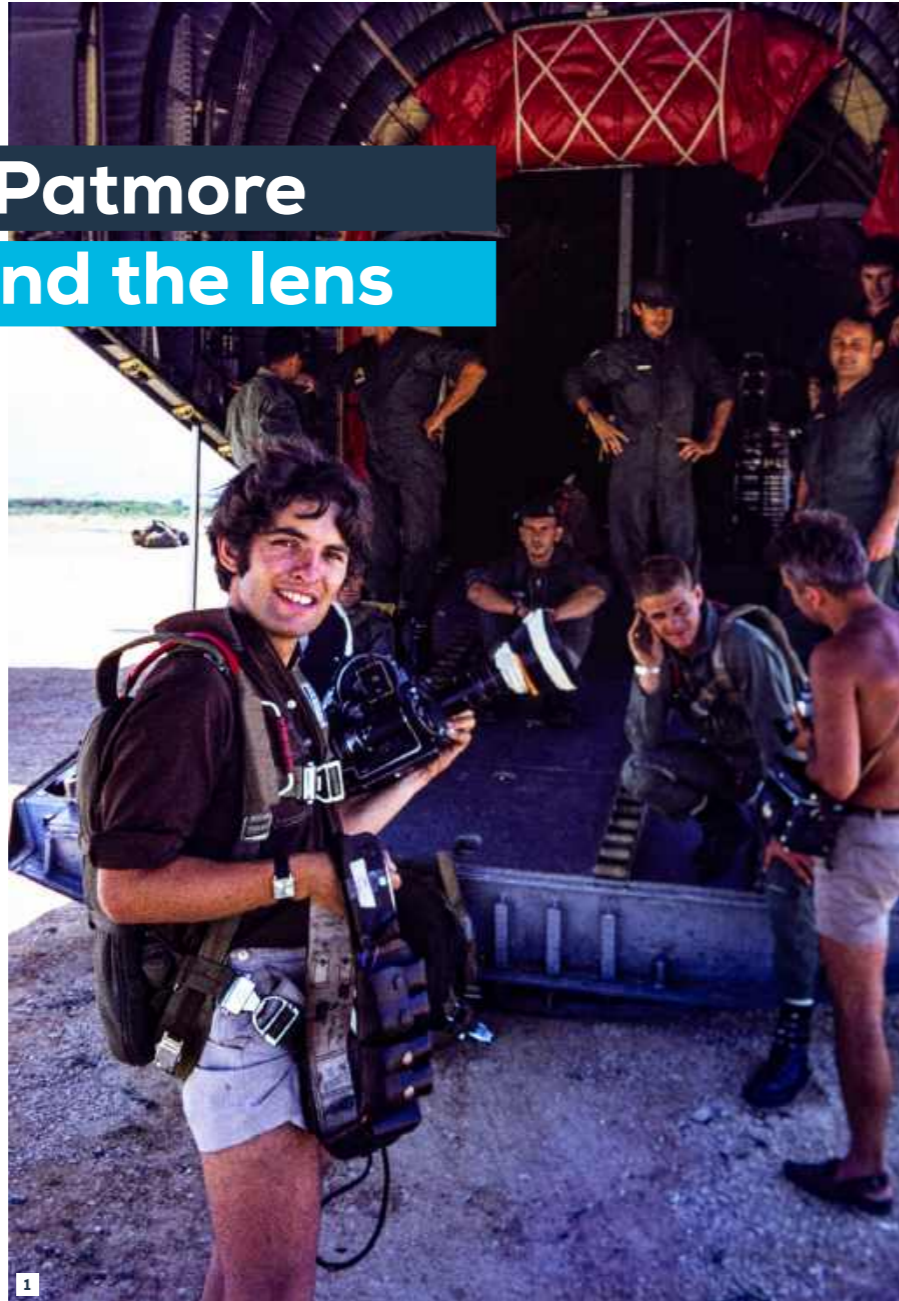
I joined RHS at the age of 11 in 1957, becoming a member of Cornwallis House under the watchful eye of Housemaster Mr Burbidge, who was later succeeded by Mr Long.

For my 11th birthday, my father had given me a Zeiss Ikon camera, which sparked my fascination with photography, then with the Chemistry Master's guidance I learned to develop and print photographs in the darkroom. He acted as the School's photographer, but when he was away, I would take over by photographing visiting admirals for the school magazine – an exciting opportunity for a budding photographer.

### Lightbulb moment!

In 1960, I won first prize for General Knowledge and at Speech Day was awarded the book *Seven Years in Tibet* by Lord Mountbatten. After receiving the prize, I boldly asked if I could photograph him. To my delight, he agreed, suggesting we do so by his helicopter. It was my first celebrity photograph, although Lord Mountbatten didn't look at the camera and I didn't have the nerve to ask him to pose again. In the photograph (shown) the Headmaster Mr York stood by Lord Mountbatten's side. I think secretly Mr York was very pleased that I asked to take the photograph!

That same year, during Easter leave, I attended the BBC's Broadcasting Week at Portsmouth Guildhall. My family and I watched recordings of popular programs like *What's My Line?*, and a distant cousin of mine, Tony Soper, gave a talk



on documentary filmmaking. Tony had worked alongside Peter Scott, a celebrated naturalist (the David Attenborough of his time). His talk was captivating, and it was during this moment that I had my 'lightbulb moment' and suddenly knew that I wanted to be – a documentary film cameraman. As we walked down the Guildhall steps afterward, I shared this revelation with my family, who, much to my surprise, offered their wholehearted support.

### Charting an uncertain path

It turned out to be a bit of a struggle as neither the School's career department nor the Ipswich Careers Office had any advice on breaking into television. My mother even met with the Headmaster, Mr York, but he admitted he had no guidance to offer. As I was in the wrong academic form to sit O levels, in 1961 my mother decided I should leave RHS to study at Portsmouth Technical College, where I passed five O levels.

During my time in Portsmouth I had many holiday jobs, which enabled me to buy an 8mm cine camera and start making films; I also applied to join the BBC, but I was too young.

### Stepping into the industry

In late 1963, I found work at Wallace Heaton, the late Queen's photographic shop in Bond Street, though I was based at their Cheapside branch in London. Here, I sold second-hand cameras and film; one of my customers was the Governor of the Bank of England! Around this time, I joined an amateur film society in Covent Garden called The Grasshoppers. Through this group, I met Errol Le Cain, an animator and designer working for Moreno Cartoons. When Errol mentioned that his boss, George Moreno, was looking for a runner, I jumped at the chance.

I spent 1964 delivering films to laboratories, painting animation cells and observing stop-frame animation. Using a borrowed 16mm camera, I created a short documentary about Petticoat Lane Market, titled *Always on a Sunday*. In early 1965, I presented the film to the BBC Film Department at Ealing Studios. It was the first time I saw my work projected in a proper theatre, and despite its imperfections it looked impressive. Alan Richardson, a senior manager,



1. Preparing to film French Legionnaires parachuting for BBC2's *Man Alive* in Corsica, June 1971, while wearing a parachute.
2. On Speech Day in July 1960, Headmaster Norman York posed with Lord Mountbatten, who suggested the photo be taken by his helicopter.
3. The end-of-term Class 5A photo, taken in July 1960, was captured during prep time, with permission from the duty teacher.
4. In July 1960, Paul Collett (Cornwallis, 1961) joined me for a visit to Trafalgar Square before heading home after the summer term.



suggested I apply for a trainee projectionist position as at 19 I was too young for the Camera Department. After studying film projection and passing the interview, I began work there in March 1965.

**Adventures behind the camera**

I learnt a lot about camera work from projecting other cameramen's footage. In my spare time, I collaborated with colleagues to produce two more 16mm films, including a drama-documentary about Beatrix Potter. This film was sold to Irish Television, where I met my future wife during a visit. By 1967, I was accepted into the BBC's Camera Department as a trainee assistant film cameraman, beginning a long apprenticeship that eventually led to becoming a fully-fledged cameraman.

The BBC in the 1960s, '70s and '80s (and even into the '90s) was a thriving hub of creativity, with 84 in-house film crews. I worked across a wide variety of programs, from children's shows like *Blue Peter* to comedy classics like *The Two Ronnies* and *Monty Python*. A highlight was filming the 1978 *Doctor Who* Christmas special, *The Power of the Krill*. Over time, I gravitated toward documentaries, which took me to all corners of the globe.

- 5. Wearing flak jackets, we filmed civil war documentaries for BBC1's *Everyman* in Beirut, during December 1983.
- 6. In Egypt during October 1980, we filmed atop a pyramid for BBC2's *Rommers Egypt*, with permission from the Minister of Antiquities.
- 7. On HMS Ark Royal, we captured helicopter refuelling at sea for BBC1's *Life at Sea* documentary, in September 1974.
- 8. Retracing Jan Little's survival story in the Amazon jungle, we filmed for BBC2's *The Amazon Odyssey* in Brazil during June 1985.
- 9. While filming *The Mafia Wars* drama documentaries in January 1987, we shot scenes in New York, Sicily and Switzerland.
- 10. Exploring Stalin, Nazis and Western alliances, we filmed on Spitsbergen for BBC2's *Behind Closed Doors* in August 2007.
- 11. In December 1983, a Druze artillery crew in the Chuft Mountains became the focus of our filming for BBC1's *Everyman*.
- 12. Documenting displaced women and children in a Red Cross camp, we visited Angola during June 1982 for BBC1's *Everyman*.
- 13. For BBC1's *Everyman*, we filmed Red Cross aid for wounded Mujahideen and Russian POW negotiations in Pakistan during March 1983.
- 14. A vibrant street scene in central Peshawar was captured on film in March 1983, revealing the city's energy and cultural richness.



**Memorable assignments**

In 1983, while in New York, I received a call from the BBC Natural History Unit, asking if I could film hibernating bears in Pennsylvania. Though I lacked wildlife filming experience, I eagerly accepted. Meeting David Attenborough was unforgettable. His warmth and encouragement put me at ease. The shoot involved carefully filming a mother bear and her six cubs inside their den. Despite the challenges of low light, I captured intimate footage using wide-aperture lenses and a torch. Later that day, we filmed chipmunks – a less daunting task.

My career also took me to conflict zones, covering the civil war in El Salvador, the Druze-Maronite Christian conflict in Lebanon, and the aftermath of Angola's civil war. In Pakistan, I documented the Red Cross's work treating Afghan tribesmen wounded in battles with Russian forces. There were dangers, too; alongside other crew members I was held at gunpoint in Cyprus, the USA, and El Salvador.

Lighter moments included *Blue Peter* foreign trips, following Genesis on tour in 1978, and filming interviews with politicians such as Edward Heath, Harold Wilson and Boris Johnson. I also worked on a documentary celebrating the late Queen's 70th birthday.

**Capturing history**

Before leaving the BBC in 1998, I collaborated with Laurence Rees on *The Nazis: A Warning from History*, which won a BAFTA. This project led to further series on WWII and the Holocaust. As a freelance cameraman, I continued working with former BBC directors, expanding my portfolio to include projects for ITV and Channel 4.

Documentary filmmaking has been an incredible journey of constant learning. The stories I've captured and the people I've met have profoundly enriched my life. Despite its challenges, I feel deeply fortunate to have had a career I adored, supported by a loving wife who shared my adventures until her passing.

Back in 1960, when I received *Seven Years in Tibet* from Lord Mountbatten, I dreamed of filming there. Though it never happened during my career, I recently visited Tibet on a photographic holiday, bringing my journey full circle. ■

READ THE FULL STORY OF MARTIN'S INCREDIBLE CAREER: [WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/ALUMNI/GIDGE/LIFEBEHINDTHELENS](http://WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/ALUMNI/GIDGE/LIFEBEHINDTHELENS)

# A FOND FAREWELL



**ARTHUR COLEMAN OBE**  
(Raleigh, 1944)

Born on 2 April 1928, in Dunchideock, near Exeter, Arthur was the ninth of ten siblings in a close-knit family. His father, a master builder, passed away when Arthur was just six years old, and when his mother remarried he and his brother Ron went to the British Seaman Orphan Boys Home in Brixham; Arthur started at RHS in 1939, joining older brother Doug. At school he thrived, and discovered a lifelong passion for brass band music, mastering the tuba.

As his time at RHS came to an end, Arthur achieved the highest score in the Aircraft Apprentices examination, however he failed his medical due to poor eyesight, and so he had to take up a civilian occupation. He joined British Cellophane in April 1944 as a laboratory assistant.

Following National Service, Arthur returned to British Cellophane and began to study, eventually gaining a PhD. His groundbreaking work in chemical waste treatment led to the founding of ReChem Ltd in 1968, the first company of its kind, which pioneered global standards for safe waste disposal. His contributions to this sphere earned him an OBE in 1982.

A devoted husband to the late Beryl, and a loving father and grandfather, Arthur balanced his professional achievements with a deep commitment to his family and faith. His retirement was filled with travel and family gatherings, and despite health and mobility challenges in his later years he remained upbeat; he was an inspiration in how he remained content whatever the circumstances.



**MARTIN BARNES**  
(Hood, 1983)

Martin was born and raised in Harwich, where his father worked for Trinity House. In 1976, at the age of 11, he joined RHS and quickly stood out, excelling both academically and on the sports field. A gifted footballer with a cultured left foot and the best tennis player in his year, he had a particular talent for geography and maths, and was also a Senior Prefect.

After completing his schooling, Martin studied at City of London University, where his intellect and easy charm made him a valued friend to many. It was during this time that he met Sarah, introduced by long-time RHS friend and post-university flatmate David Franks (Cornwallis, 1983), and the couple married in 1993. Their daughter Eleanor was born three years later, and then, in the early 2000s, the three of them moved back to Essex to be closer to relatives.

A diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in 2020 brought profound challenges, but he faced them with resilience and humour. Initially given just six months to live, and with the challenges of setting up care further hampered by COVID restrictions – which meant Martin moved in with his sister Christine until he was able to find a flat close to family, to accommodate the live-in carers he needed – he still maintained an enduring focus on others. He continued working until the day before his passing, maintaining his optimism and trademark wit.

Martin's warmth and kindness left a lasting impression on all who knew him.



**JOHN ATKIN**  
(Cornwallis, 1955)

John was born in Portsmouth in 1939, just before the start of World War II, which led to his evacuation to East Wittering to escape the Blitz bombing of his hometown. He attended RHS along with his brother Mark, and was a proud member of Cornwallis House.

At 16, John joined the Royal Navy, beginning his career at HMS Collingwood as an Electrical Mechanic. Over the years, he served on numerous ships, including HMS Starling, Blackpool, Duchess and Bellerophon, rising to the rank of Leading Electrical Mechanic. After leaving the Navy in 1969, John pursued a successful career in engineering, maintaining a keen interest in new technologies throughout his life.

In 1966, John married Myrna, and together they raised two sons, Geoffrey and Antony. Settling in Gloucester, John became deeply involved in his community, serving as Chairman of the Hardwicke & District Royal British Legion Club for 20 years, founding Hardwicke Cricket Club, and holding leadership roles in the Gloucester City Skittles League. His retirement was filled with laughter and camaraderie, organising memorable trips for his skittles team and gardening – he grew all sorts of fruit and vegetables, to be shared with friends and family.

Despite Lewy body dementia in his later years, John's fond memories of his school days and naval career persisted and shone through. He passed peacefully on 6 May 2024, just before his 85th birthday, with his sons by his side.

# 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:

**GRAHAM VIVIAN ANNOOT**  
(Anson, 1958) December 2024

**JOHN THOMAS ATKIN**  
(Cornwallis, 1955) May 2024

**MARTIN MORSHEAD BARNES**  
(Hood, 1983) August 2024

**COLIN BARRY**  
(Hood, 1953) January 2024

**JOHN KEVIN BEAL**  
(Nelson, 1959) February 2023

**DAVID JOHN CASH**  
(Hawke, 1956) November 2023

**GRAHAM BENSON ERSKINE CHAPMAN**  
(Howe, 1977) March 2024

**ANTHONY ROWLAND CHURCH**  
(St Vincent, 1947) August 2023

**ARTHUR KENNETH COLEMAN**  
(Raleigh, 1944) September 2024

**DOUGLAS RONALD JAMES CORNWALL**  
(Cornwallis, 1975) January 2024

**JOHN WILLIAM CROWSON**  
(Nelson, 1950) May 2024

**MICHAEL CHARLES CUTTING**  
(Howe, 1955) March 2024

**DAVID GEORGE DE ROSA**  
(Nelson, 1965) March 2023

**THOMAS EVANS**  
(Anson, 1959) May 2024

**JOHN FREDERICK FENSOME**  
(St Vincent, 1963) February 2024

**JOHN ANTHONY SIDNEY FIELD**  
(Anson, 1947) January 2024

**DESMOND ROBERT FOULGER**  
(Nelson, 1959) May 2024

**DAVID PATRICK FUNNELL**  
(Nelson, 1959) August 2024

**NIGEL GAMBRILL**  
(St Vincent, 1943) January 2024

**JAMES JOHN HARMON**  
(Hood, 1949) unknown

**MARK ANDREW HARRISON**  
(Nelson, 1985) November 2024

**BRIAN CHETWOOD HINKS**  
(Hood, 1949) April 2024

**JOHN HOGG**  
(Hawke, 1946) November 2023

**DAVID ALAN KETCHLEY HOMER**  
(Hood, 1951) June 2024

**DAVID GODFREY HORTON**  
(Raleigh, 1955) December 2023

**BRIAN GEORGE LOVEDAY**  
(Cornwallis, 1964) September 2023

**CHRISTINE MARSHALL**  
March 2024

**RICHARD GEOFFREY MARSHALL**  
(Collingwood, 1983) July 2024

**ROBERT BEATTIE MCNAB**  
(Cornwallis, 1974) March 2024

**IAN KEITH EDWARD MEDWAY**  
(Hood, 1947) February 2024

**ROBERT FREDERICK COLIN MOORE**  
(Blake, 1958) June 2024

**MONICA MORRIS**  
July 2024

**COLIN STANLEY NEEVES**  
(Hawke, 1956) September 2024

**PETER MALCOLM OCLEY**  
(Raleigh, 1957) October 2023

**DERRICK CHARLES PORTER**  
(Hood, 1947) February 2024

**ANTHONY BLACKSTONE PORTMAN**  
(Hood, 1942) November 2023

**WILLIAM RIMMER**  
(Raleigh, 1981) December 2024

**EDWARD THOMAS ROSE**  
(St Vincent, 1951) 2023

**JOHN FRANCIS ROXBURGH**  
(Nelson, 1965) May 2024

**MICHAEL VIVIAN ARTHUR RUDRUM**  
(Anson, 1950) January 2024

**CAROL SANDERS**  
January 2024

**PHILLIP SENDALL**  
(Anson, 1962) June 2024

**ALLAN SPENCER**  
(Hawke, 1956) August 2024

**COLIN PATRICK STOWERS**  
(Blake, 1956) October 2023

**ANDREW GEORGE SWAN**  
(Raleigh, 1968) November 2023

**GRAHAM SWIFT**  
(Anson, 1953) November 2021

**MARK TAYLOR**  
(Cornwallis, 1976) January 2023

**RONALD JAMES UREN**  
(Anson, 1946) May 2023

**MICHAEL JOHN WATTS**  
(Cornwallis, 1960) 2023

**DAVID MICHAEL WILCOX**  
(Drake, 1968) March 2024



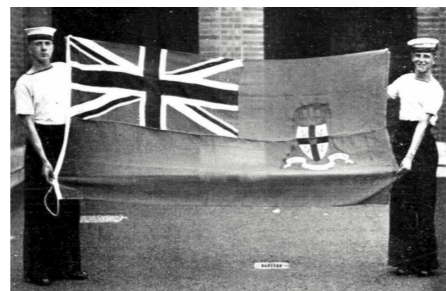
# A legacy of adventure and dedication

**Chris Ingram (Raleigh, 1956) has been inspired to share the remarkable story of his role model, REH Kemp (Raleigh, 1953), an exceptional RHS Head Boy. Thanks to Kemp's son, Brian, Chris has learned about Kemp's life, and more than 70 years since they first met, he felt compelled to honour the legacy of a man shaped by the responsibilities and opportunities he embraced at RHS.**

Reginald Edward Herbert Kemp, known to his friends and family as simply 'Kemp', was a man whose life journey was as extraordinary as it was diverse. Kemp's remarkable career and adventures left quite an impact on those who knew him. Kemp's story began with a grounding in adventure and service. After leaving RHS, he embarked on a path that would see him achieve feats few could imagine. Initially, Kemp's academic journey took him to Queen's University, though his passion for aviation soon redirected his course. Driven by a lifelong dream to fly, he joined the Kenyan police force, not only to serve but to earn his pilot's licence. Kemp's aviation career took flight in earnest when he joined the Royal Air Force. He flew various aircraft, including the iconic Vampire and Vulcan B2 bombers. One of the most harrowing and awe-inspiring stories from his RAF service

is a dramatic incident involving a Vulcan B2. During a routine flight, Kemp's aircraft suffered catastrophic engine failure after an overly steep climb. With two engines ablaze and flames threatening the aircraft, Kemp made the critical decision to stay with the plane, giving the rear crew a chance to bail out – remarkably, he managed a safe emergency landing. This event was so dramatic that it became the talk of the air traffic control room, with tales of the plane disappearing below the horizon before reappearing like a scene from a war film. Kemp's expertise and resilience were not limited to his military career; he also undertook an Arctic Survival course, a test of endurance and ingenuity. During an Escape and Evasion exercise in severe weather conditions, Kemp and his navigator broke into a hen house to steal eggs, only to

discover later that one was a porcelain fake (part of the farm's trickery to encourage hens to lay). Despite his adventurous pursuits, Kemp's personal life was marked by a commitment to education. After leaving the RAF, he transitioned into teaching, bringing his scientific knowledge to students at Waltham Toll Bar and later at De Aston in Market Rasen. He also taught science and physics at a school in Methwold, Norfolk. His teaching career was cut short by a tragic accident in 1981, which claimed both his and his wife Pamela's lives in a car crash. The loss was profound, marking a significant end to a life of service and dedication.



One of Kemp's lighter personal stories involves his courtship of Pamela Peachey, during which a memorable encounter with a Tiger Moth biplane occurred. As Kemp performed daring aerial manoeuvres, a concerned observer, potentially Lord Howard de Walden, inquired about the 'lunatic' in the sky, only to be reassured by Pamela's father that the pilot was indeed in control.

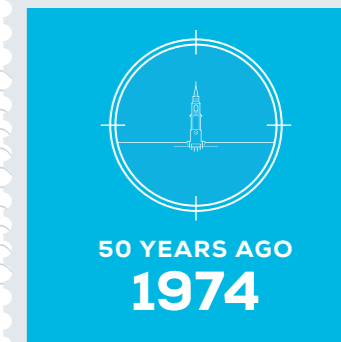
In the final chapters of his life, Kemp had signed a contract to teach Saudi aircrew abroad, an opportunity he never had the chance to pursue due to his untimely death. His legacy lives on not only through the stories shared by his family but also through the indelible mark he left on his students and colleagues.

Kemp's life story is a testament to his extraordinary spirit: an adventurer, a hero, and a dedicated educator. His journey from RHS Head Boy to the skies and beyond encapsulates a life lived fully and with purpose. For those who knew him or were inspired by his achievements, Kemp's story remains a compelling reminder of the heights one can reach with courage and determination. ■



Left: REH Kemp passing out at RAF Swindon 1958  
Above: REH Kemp at RHS in his No.1s  
Top: REH Kemp with the Kings Banner

## LOOKING BACK



### ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP BICENTENARY DINNER

This year commemorated the 200th anniversary of Arthur Phillip's passing. Phillip, a distinguished alumnus of the Royal Hospital School, rose to the rank of Admiral in the Royal Navy, and is renowned as the First Governor of New South Wales as well as the founding father of modern Australia.

At just 13 years old, Phillip attended Weston's Academy, where he was praised for his diplomacy, mildness, and diligent approach to his studies. Departing RHS in 1753, he embarked on a career at sea in the Merchant Navy.



To honour his legacy, the School hosted the Admiral Arthur Phillip Bicentenary Dinner, attended by various dignitaries including Sir Michael Savory, Chairman of the Britain-Australia Society. Another significant event occurred at Westminster Abbey, where His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, laid a wreath to dedicate a new memorial stone to Admiral Arthur Phillip. The School was privileged to provide the guard of honour, with Cesca Morelli (Howe, 2015) presenting the wreath to Prince Philip.



### CHOIR TOUR TO FRANCE

The Chapel Choir tour to France was a memorable one, and included a performance at La Madeleine, where the celebrated composer Saint-Saens was once the organist. Other performances were given in the magnificent cathedral at Chartres, a truly enormous building, and the somewhat smaller cathedral of St Louis le Roi, which once housed a chapel of Louis XV.

This was also the year of Deputy Headmaster Edmund Smitheram's retirement; the trip was a fitting way to end the year's music making – Edmund's tenor voice would be sadly missed.



### THE LONG SUNSET

In March 1974, the Royal Hospital School Dramatic Society staged *The Long Sunset*, a historical play in three acts by RC Sherriff, set during the twilight of Imperial Rome. Directed by Mr RE Guilbert, the production explored the final days of Roman Britain, delving into the personal beliefs, principles and relationships that both divided and united the characters.

The story was brought to life by a small, capable cast, with stellar performances from Christopher Jaynes (Nelson, 1974) as Marcus, a Roman officer, and David Wells (Cornwallis, 1977) playing Julian, a Roman in Britain.



While the play's introspective themes sparked mixed reviews, ranging from admiration for the clarity of speech and scenic design to calls for more action, its thoughtful execution left quite the impression. According to the School magazine, despite minor imperfections typical of a school production, the play was widely regarded as a testament to the skill and dedication of the RHS dramatic team, inspiring hope for future theatrical endeavours! ■



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