GIDGE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE FOR
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



CONNECT INSPIRE BELONG



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.

YOUR LEGACY, THEIR FUTURE

By leaving a gift in your will, you can make an extraordinary impact. Your generosity could provide life-changing bursaries for talented pupils who may otherwise miss out on an RHS education.

THE BENEFITS OF GIVING

Transform lives: Help fund bursaries that open doors to academic excellence, lifelong friendships, and opportunities that shape future leaders.

Tax advantages: Gifts left in wills are exempt from Inheritance Tax, meaning your legacy can go further while reducing the tax burden on your estate.

A lasting tribute: Your name or that of a loved one can be remembered through your gift, creating an enduring connection with the RHS community.

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY

Including RHS in your will is simple and rewarding. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to sustain the bursary programme and continue our proud tradition of empowering pupils to achieve their full potential.

Together, we can inspire and enable the leaders, creators and change makers of tomorrow.

To discuss your legacy or request an information pack, contact Lauren Bayliss-Fuller at lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org

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

ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE:

04 WELCOME
06 YEAR IN REVIEW
10 RHS@25
12 INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR
14 IN HONOUR OF SERVICE
16 ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
18 PIGEON POST
24 ALUMNI TOURS
26 ALTER EGOS & SIDE HUSTLES
32 A FOND FAREWELL
33 ABSENT SHIPMATES
34 LOOKING BACK
35 THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

GIDGE Magazine is also available for download at www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/gidge

Editor-in-Chief: Lauren Bayliss-Fuller
Sub-Editor: Rebecca Winward
Creative Director: Kerry Hone
Editorial Assistant: Katie Gould

Suffolk Carbon Charter 2019 GOLD

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

Cover photo: Lewis Browning (Raleigh, 2018), Centennial Art Exhibition auctioneer.



FEATURES



RHS@25: GEORGINA ALABONE
From pinecone spirals to cutting-edge Crohn's research, Georgina Alabone is turning scientific curiosity into impact both in and beyond the lab.



INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR
Art teacher and artist Lucy Parker shares how teaching and community intertwine, and why staying true to yourself is at the heart of an artist's journey.



IN HONOUR OF SERVICE
Lieutenant Colonel David Love MBE reflects on leadership and the values forged at RHS, which shaped his path from peacekeeping to developing future Army leaders.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
Lance Williams traces the journey from early ambition to founding Offerlogic, revealing how resilience and trusted relationships shaped his career and fuel his next chapter.



ALTER EGOS AND SIDE HUSTLES
From classic car building to coastal art, netball umpiring to bagpiping, our alumni prove that passion doesn't clock out at 5pm, and it certainly keeps life richer.



LOOKING BACK
Headmaster from 1983 to 1995, Michael Kirk transformed RHS with compassion and vision; we remember how he brought music, laughter and lasting change to school life.



Welcome

It's a real pleasure to welcome you to this latest issue of Gidge, and to do so as your incoming Vice President of the Royal Hospital School Association (RHSA). The magazine remains a wonderful way to celebrate our shared heritage, reconnect with the RHS community, and spotlight the remarkable stories and achievements of our alumni community.

By way of introduction, I was a pupil in Cornwallis from 1976 to 1983 and was among the first that Monty Callow (Drake, 1974) taught for A-level Chemistry! My school years were fairly uneventful, apart from sport, where my 6'5" frame at the age of 14 made me both easy to spot and useful on the rugby and athletics fields. After leaving RHS, I went on to study Pharmacy at Bradford University, where I 'enjoyed myself' perhaps a little too much and graduated six months later than planned. That delay, however, proved to be the kick up the rear that I needed to focus.

Since then, I've spent 34 years working across various Leeds hospitals in a range of roles, eventually becoming a Consultant Antimicrobial Pharmacist and Visiting Professor at Leeds University. I've also had the privilege of serving in various professional leadership positions and receiving recognition with an OBE. I now work in Antimicrobial Stewardship with NHS England and have swapped Yorkshire for the Northumberland coast, where I divide my time between family, two Labradors, an allotment, 30 bonsai trees and regular swims in the North Sea.

I step into this role at a time of change and renewal for the School, with exciting opportunities ahead under new leadership. The RHSA will continue to work closely with the headmaster to ensure that our heritage remains at the heart of RHS, while supporting both former and future generations of pupils as valued members of our extended family.

Many thanks to my predecessors Andy Redwood (St Vincent, 1979) and Monty Callow for the sterling job they did. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and to celebrating all that makes our community so special. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support.

Best wishes,



PHILIP HOWARD OBE
(CORNWALLIS, 1983)

A reflection on the past year



Thinking back to September 2024, we were sitting on the sofa in Nelson, desperately asking the duty teacher for help with our start-of-year speech. It's nostalgic to find ourselves in a similar situation one final time, although now we are writing from university and home instead of the day room. And as we move forward, it's a nice moment to reflect on a busy year full of memorable moments.

This past school year brought significant change with the arrival of a new headmaster, Mr Latif. His enthusiasm and fresh perspective energised the school, and he quickly began building on a positive environment while introducing new traditions.

Alongside the changes, this last year was filled with familiar rituals that brought the school together – or occasionally divided it in the name of interhouse rivalry. House Shout once again roared in the assembly hall, with the occasional questionable unison dance move, and loud screams coming from Howe after winning the contest. Interhouse cross country brought out house flags and face paint, with Year 13 having more competitors than in previous years (not to brag or anything!). Add to these a raft of drama productions and sports fixtures, and you'll get an idea of just how busy the year was.

A personal highlight for the both of us was when the Band took part in the Lord Mayor's March in London and was even broadcast on the BBC. It was one of those moments that made us realise how special the opportunities at RHS are, and how proud we felt to represent the school on such a stage.

The contrast of life away from Holbrook, for a few months now, has reminded us just how busy school life is, especially Year 13 where you try to make the most of all your 'lasts' while attempting to prepare for your biggest exams so far. That's not to mention applications and decisions for the next steps of your life. So, we think it's safe to say that we became good at finding distractions to ease the pressure!

Nelson took to the sports stage in both the Nelson vs Staff netball and football matches, and also saw a fantastic victory in the Nelson vs Year 12 hockey match. Then there were all of the formals. Trafalgar Night was an evening of elegance and sea shanties, while Burns Night had a very different ambience with plenty of dancing and a few attempted Scottish accents.

Seeing everyone immersed in school life throughout our final year really underlined the community spirit that made our seven years here so special, ending with our time in Nelson, which was a great way to finish it off; from evening Uno games to long tuck queues, it felt like we had gone full circle with our year group being in the same house one final time.

Becoming alumni is a strange feeling, but from seeing the 'old boys and girls' return to watch Divisions parades and chapel services, we know that you never really lose that connection. So we are looking forward to keeping an eye on RHS and can't wait to see what happens next.

WRITTEN BY MOLLY NICHOLS (RALEIGH, 2025) AND DAVID ADEYEMO (COLLINGWOOD, 2025), 2025 HEADS OF SCHOOL.

YEAR IN REVIEW

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND 2025

This year's Remembrance Reunion Weekend was a truly special occasion, bringing together over 200 alumni who returned to school to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate shared RHS traditions. The sporting fixtures were a highlight, with the alumni hockey team securing an impressive 3-0 victory over the RHS pupils, while pupils triumphed in the Alumni vs Pupils Sailing Regatta. A new addition for 2025 saw alumni making full use of the RHS golf course, which proved a hugely popular way to start the weekend.

Another new feature this year was a special heritage and archives display, showcasing photographs, memorabilia and stories from across the decades. It sparked wonderful conversations, fond memories and plenty of laughter as alumni spotted familiar faces and shared tales from their time at the school.

On Sunday, we were honoured to welcome Capt Mark Hardwick (St Vincent, 1987) as the Inspecting Officer for the Remembrance Parade.



PRIMED FOR PICTURE PERFECTION

As part of Summer Reunion Weekend, alumnus George Franks (Cornwallis, 1981) returned to RHS not only to capture the occasion through his lens but also to lead a special sports photography masterclass during Sports Day.

A professional photographer, George has worked with England Cricket and Premier League football teams, bringing global experience to inspire our pupils. Using his own professional equipment, he guided students in capturing dynamic action shots, teaching them how to freeze movement, frame fast-paced scenes, and about storytelling through images.

The learning continued on the Monday, when George ran a post-production workshop, showing pupils how to edit and refine their photographs. His hands-on approach left a lasting impact, boosting both technical skills and creative confidence.





RHS REMEMBERS

On 25 March 2025, 107 years after his death, Captain Hubert Leslie Smith was honoured with a rededication ceremony at Ham British Cemetery in France. A decorated officer of the King's Liverpool Regiment and former Assistant Master at Greenwich Hospital, Captain Smith was killed in action during the First World War.

Although commemorated in the RHS Magazine of 1923 and on the School's memorial tablet, his grave remained unknown for more than a century. Through the meticulous research of James Uzzell, compelling evidence identified Captain Smith's resting place, leading to a new headstone bearing his name.

The moving service, organised by the Ministry of Defence and Commonwealth War Graves Commission, included full military rites. Family members, including great-nephews from the USA, were able to visit his grave for the first time. RHS was represented through the laying of a wreath, marking this important moment of remembrance.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AWARDS

We were proud to celebrate alumna Teniola Lamidi (Howe, 2023), who was recognised at the Breaking Down Barriers Awards at the House of Commons for her inspiring work with The Purpose Coalition. Teniola, who attended RHS as a bursary award holder supported by the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation, credits that opportunity as life-changing and central to her passion for social mobility.

With The Purpose Coalition, she has shared her lived experience to help leading organisations (including Clyde & Co, Co-op, Southeastern Railway and Enterprise Mobility) develop more inclusive strategies and open opportunities to underrepresented groups. She is particularly focused on breaking barriers for women entering male-dominated industries.

We were also delighted to welcome Teniola back to RHS in September as the guest speaker at the Year 12 Induction Dinner. She shared powerful lessons on courage, opportunity, and resilience, reflecting on her journey from Peckham to RHS and beyond.

Teniola encouraged our new Sixth Formers to embrace new experiences, seek support when needed, and "take every opportunity that comes your way."





A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

On Saturday 1 March the RHS Art Block was transformed into a vibrant exhibition space for our Centennial Art Exhibition and Auction. Bringing together an extraordinary range of artwork from alumni, parents, pupils, staff, and celebrated local and international artists, the evening was a true showcase of creativity across the RHS community.



Highlights included works by Jack Russell MBE, the former England cricketer turned artist, and expressive landscapes by Head of Art Harriet Barber, whose distinctive style drew much admiration. The presence of several exhibiting artists (including a number of alumni) made the event extra special.

Adding an extra flair to the evening was alumnus Lewis Browning (Raleigh, 2018), whose energy and humour as auctioneer kept the room buzzing and the bids rolling in.

Thanks to the generosity of all who donated, bid, and supported, both in advance and on the night, we raised an incredible £7,895 towards the Centennial Bursary Campaign, which aims to Launch 100 Lives through life-changing bursaries.



CHECK MATE!

The second Alumni vs Pupil Chess Tournament took place in September, bringing together current and former pupils for a friendly yet fiercely competitive morning of strategic play.

Across seven rounds, each participant had the opportunity to take on every opponent, testing skill, concentration and tactical thinking. The atmosphere was both relaxed and engaging, with players sharing stories between matches and enjoying the rare chance to bridge generations over a shared love of the game.

Congratulations to current pupil Eytan, this year's overall winner, and to all who took part in making the event such a success. Thank you for joining us Marc Bryant (Nelson, 1978) and Peter Eales (Anson, 1968).

RHSA CENTENNIAL DINNER

On Saturday 16 August, alumni gathered at the historic Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Hospital School Association. The occasion marked 100 years since 'Old Boys' first came together on Prize Giving Day in 1925 to form the RHSA. The afternoon began with drinks and conversation, as alumni from across generations reconnected and shared stories, before a three-course dinner in a setting steeped in naval heritage. Glasses were raised to King Charles III, absent friends, RHS and the RHSA, with toasts led by Nick May (Anson, 1980) as Toastmaster. A truly memorable celebration.



A special thank you goes to Nick Gill (Collingwood, 1988) for his hard work and dedication in organising such a successful and fitting celebration of this remarkable milestone.





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



PAMPEANO FOR PUPS

This year, the Alumni Office added a touch of style to fundraising with the launch of exclusive Pampeano dog collars and leads, raising funds for the Centennial Bursary Campaign. To showcase the new merchandise, our four-legged friends took centre stage as models: Sydney, owned by Katie Gould (Blake, 2010), and Bruno, owned by Lauren Bayliss-Fuller (Hood/Cornwallis, 2001). The photoshoot was as lively as you'd imagine, with plenty of wagging tails and treats involved! Stylish, practical, and for a great cause, these RHS-branded accessories proved a hit with dog lovers supporting life-changing bursaries. You can support the Centennial Bursary Campaign by purchasing exclusive RHS with Pampeano items and other Alumni Office merchandise online via **www.trybooking.com/uk/FFJM**

SPORTS SCHOLARS' DINNER

The annual Sports Scholars' Dinner on Friday 14 March was a fantastic celebration of talent, teamwork and ambition. We were delighted to welcome back alumnus Kias Wilkinson-Todd (Collingwood, 2007), who gave an inspiring talk on the importance of a holistic approach to training and performance - with balance, discipline and mindset as key ingredients to long-term success. His words resonated with our scholars, leaving them motivated to apply these principles to both their training and wider lives.



A YEAR IN THE US FOR JAMES

James Humphreys (Drake, 2024) has just completed a transformative year at Georgia Military College (GMC), where discipline, leadership and adventure defined his experience. Rising daily at 05:30 for physical training before a full schedule of classes and evening study halls, James thrived in the regimented structure of cadet life.

Promoted early to Cadet Major and appointed 1st Battalion S3 Operations Officer, he planned and coordinated battalion-wide events for over 100 cadets, honing time management, communication and leadership skills. He also took on ceremonial duties with the cannon crew, firing the College's Howitzer at football games.

Academically, James explored subjects from homeland security to military science, while extracurricular highlights included representing GMC at the Ethics Bowl in Utah and hiking South Carolina's historic Mount Currahee.

Reflecting on his journey, James credits GMC with strengthening his confidence and leadership skills as he now sets his sights on Sandhurst and a career in the British Army.







RHS CAREERS FAIR 2025

On Wednesday 22 January the assembly hall came alive with energy as pupils from Years 10 to 13 explored the diverse world of work at the RHS Careers Fair. With over 45 exhibitors spanning professional services, technology, performing arts, the Armed Forces and more, the event offered pupils a wealth of inspiration for their futures.

A highlight of the day was the involvement of our alumni, who generously returned to share their experiences and insights. From fields as varied as law and real estate to environmental consultancy and the creative industries, alumni including Molly Williamson (Raleigh/Drake, 2019), Jo Pape (Hood, 2011), Evie Thorpe (Howe, 2023), Georgia Ironmonger (Hood, 2023) and Harry Sargeant (Cornwallis, 2019) represented their organisations and gave pupils a look at life beyond RHS.

BARTY'S CHAPEL ADDRESS

In July, pupils and staff were moved by an inspiring Chapel address from Barty Hills (Collingwood, 2006). Sharing his journey through two brain surgeries, Barty spoke candidly about fear, resilience, and the strength he drew from family and music. He reflected on how those experiences reshaped his outlook, teaching him gratitude, perspective and the importance of cherishing those we love. With humour and honesty, he reminded the school community that even in life's hardest moments, music can guide us through. His final message? Hold your loved ones close, stay grateful, and always find time to dance.



7 YEARS ON...

What becomes of RHS pupils after graduation? RHS alumni go on to a wide variety of exciting and challenging careers. In each issue we meet alumni of seven years and find out where they are at 25 years old. Today ***Lauren Bayliss-Fuller*** *chats to* ***Georgina Alabone*** *(Raleigh, 2018).*

FROM RHS CLASSROOMS TO A PHD LAB, GEORGINA HAS BLENDED BIOLOGY, MATHS AND CODING SKILLS TO EXPLORE HOW DIET SHAPES THE GUT MICROBIOME IN CROHN'S DISEASE. SHE SHOWS HOW CURIOSITY, RESILIENCE AND HARD WORK AT SCHOOL CAN GROW INTO RESEARCH THAT MAY TRANSFORM FUTURE PATIENT TREATMENTS.

After leaving RHS, Georgina went on to the University of East Anglia and studied an integrated Master's in Natural Sciences. "The Natural Sciences programme at UEA is very broad," she explains. "This enables each student choose modules and courses that speak to their interests. I decided on Biology, Mathematics and Computer Science as my primary interests and finished my MNatSci degree with a triple major in those subjects."

During an internship in the final year of her undergraduate studies, Georgina discovered she had a real interest in the microbiology of the human gut microbiome and bioinformatics, and wanted to follow that through to postgraduate level. She was fortunate enough to receive a position on the Microbes, Microbiomes and Bioinformatics Doctoral Training Partnership, where she is studying towards her PhD in the Quince Group. Her research focuses on dietary based therapies for Crohn's disease and their impact on the gut microbiome.

Looking back, Georgina remembers being heavily encouraged by Mr Rennison at RHS to register for GCSE Additional Mathematics and then study Further Mathematics at A Level. "Without that encouragement from Mr Rennison, I wouldn't have had the confidence to push myself to continue studying," she recalls. "Also, during my A levels, Mr Graham encouraged me to do an EPQ, in which I decided to investigate the occurrence of Lucas numbers in the spirals of pinecones. This was my first introduction to scientific research and writing, which helped my undergraduate degree."





Above: Georgina's PhD involves undertaking long-running experiments which mimic the conditions within the human colon.

Below left: Georgina's data is used by colleagues and other institutions to progress research on diet-based therapies for Crohn's disease.

"Being at RHS really taught me the importance of hard work, determination and stamina," says Georgina, going on to explain the real-world importance of those qualities. "The experiments in my PhD mimic the human colon with a number of glass vessels, which I inoculate with bacteria from the human gut. These bacteria often require extra care or feeding over weekends or evenings, with the experiments lasting many weeks. The success of each experiment is down to me, and others use the data that I generate in their research, so I have to plan and execute very carefully; it's a lot of responsibility but I love the idea that my work could help make a difference to the treatment of Crohn's disease."

Outside of work, Georgina enjoys playing hockey, which she rediscovered during her PhD after playing at RHS. "I joined the UEA Ladies team and now play for the Norwich Dragons," she explains. "For me, sport is as much about mental wellbeing as it is about physical activity. It provides a sense of balance, helps manage stress, and offers a real break from academic or professional pressures. Being part of a team and staying active makes me happier and helps me feel more grounded and focused in other areas of life."

But what of her advice to subsequent RHS alumni following a scientific path? "I'd encourage you to keep taking maths courses alongside your main scientific subject," Georgina says. "Some of the best decisions I made were studying Mathematics and Computer Science alongside Biology, which gave me an advantage. Science today is so interconnected, and having a broader skill set really helps. I'd also suggest giving coding a try. Python is a great place to start and is incredibly useful for analysing data and for creative problem solving."

Lucy Parker: Inspiring creativity through teaching and practice



***Lucy Parker** (Cornwallis, 2001) discusses how teaching fuels her artistic practice and also tells **Lauren Bayliss-Fuller** why community matters and what creativity can offer the next generation*

WHEN ART TEACHER AND EXHIBITING ARTIST LUCY PARKER, NÉE HAWKLEY, (CORNWALLIS, 2001) ISN'T NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CREATIVES AT WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL, SHE CAN BE FOUND IN HER GARDEN STUDIO, EXPLORING STORIES THROUGH COLOUR AND FORM.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO BOTH TEACH AND EXHIBIT YOUR WORK?

Teaching allows me to feel part of a community; I am a people person and being around young people and being part of the community at Woodbridge is more than just a job to me. I feel inspired by my colleagues every day, all of whom are talented artists and designers within their own rights. Teaching also gives me opportunities to learn from young people – the inspiration works both ways!

HOW DID YOUR TIME AT RHS INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER?

I grew up at RHS with my dad teaching ceramics, sport and PSHE, so in the holidays I spent lots of time in my dad's classroom making things. At A level, Mr Ravenhall taught me how to use oil paints, and gave me space and freedom to develop as a painter. I also had a nice little group of friends who were all creative thinkers and weren't afraid to be themselves. Whilst I was at RHS a small group of us would go to Ipswich for life drawing classes once a week – I think it is these little individualised opportunities which I feel very grateful for.

HOW DO YOU TRANSLATE PEOPLE'S IDEAS WHEN UNDERTAKING COMMISSIONS?

I normally receive commissions through word of mouth. People will often tell me their ideas, and we will have some conversations where they will share their vision with me. I will go away and do some drawing and then we will agree the final composition, medium and scale. It is a privilege to be asked to paint or draw something poignant for someone else, but I do put immense pressure on myself and always feel nervous about the big reveal! In contrast, with personal projects the only pressure is the pressure I put on myself so there is an ease to this work.

> Creating is an insatiable thirst which I have to quench; it really impacts my wellbeing if I haven't drawn or painted for a time.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE REALITIES OF WORKING IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TODAY?

I think if you are someone who follows a pathway into a creative industry you are set up well for life! Creative industries now make up around 10% of all FDI coming into the UK economy and this figure is growing. I feel so privileged to teach such talented young people at the start of their creative journeys, from future architects, designers and everything in between.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG ARTISTS?

I have encountered many people in my life that see the arts as inferior to academia. The truth of the matter is that science tells us that those who fulfil their creative appetite often see increased performance academically too. Creativity is a fundamental element in a young artist's human development and has a significant impact on academic performance.

WHAT INSIGHTS OR CAREER ADVICE CAN YOU SHARE WITH ASPIRING ARTISTS?

Think about what really motivates you in the arts and start with that. So many degrees have transferable skills now and I think we get so hung up on feeling as though we need to know our whole life plan at the age of 17 or 18, but we don't. Also, make sure you spend time with other creatives, creativity is infectious and discussing your work and the work of others helps you to grow as an artist. ■



In Honour of Service



IN THIS NEW REGULAR FEATURE, WE RECOGNISE A FORMER PUPIL WHOSE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS. LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID LOVE (RALEIGH, 2003) RECEIVED AN MBE IN 2025, AND HERE HE REFLECTS ON THE DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT DEFINE A LIFE OF SERVICE.

Lieutenant Colonel David Love MBE is a serving officer in the British Army. Having recently completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course, he has now returned to the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom as part of the Directing Staff, guiding and developing the next generation of senior leaders.

HOW DID IT FEEL TO RECEIVE YOUR MBE IN THE KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST?

While it may sound like a cliché to say, I genuinely didn't see it coming. When I was called to see the Commander of the Defence Academy just two days before the public announcement, my first thought was that I'd done something wrong; either I'd missed a deadline or committed some form of negligent discharge on social media! I had even prepared my rationale for the most likely mishaps on the way over to his office. I walked straight into the classic trap of "Do you know why I asked to see you?" "Is it about my LinkedIn post yesterday?" It wasn't!

WAS THERE A PARTICULAR MOMENT OR ACHIEVEMENT THAT YOU FEEL LED TO THIS HONOUR?

The award recognised my work as Chief of Staff at the Centre for Army Leadership, where, during a period of minimal staffing and slipping deadlines, I led a piece of work that would ultimately shape how the entire British Army conceptualises leadership and realigns leader development pathways across the organisation for every rank. It was a team effort, and I'm proud of what we achieved.

> The Combined Cadet Force staff were particularly instrumental in my development. They taught me lessons that stayed with me for life.

Leadership is contextual, not positional. It's not about rank or authority, it's about the influence of character, example setting, and the ability to inspire others to succeed. Everyone has the capacity to lead if they choose to model the right behaviours.

COULD YOU SHARE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF YOUR CAREER?

I joined the Army for adventure and have had it in abundance. More recently, my focus has shifted toward developing others through education and training. My time at the Centre for Army Leadership taught me more about leadership, both theory and practice, in two years than I'd learned in the 18 of my whole career.

But the most formative experience was with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, where I commanded a multinational unit of British, Hungarian, Slovak, Serbian and Argentine troops. It showed me that leadership built on authenticity, consistency and selfless service leads to outcomes that transcend language and cultural barriers. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 at the time, having my family deployed with me, in the sunshine, also made it a deeply special chapter in my life.

DO YOU FEEL THAT RHS INFLUENCED YOUR PATH OR LEADERSHIP STYLE?

The values of loyalty, commitment, courage, respect, service and integrity – instilled in me at RHS and strengthened throughout my military service – quickly built a culture of self-discipline, ownership and pride in our unit. I still live by these values every day.

There were also a few standout moments at RHS; the Combined Cadet Force staff were particularly instrumental in my development. They taught me lessons that stayed with me for life, not least about the downsides of "poor preparation..." – most will know how the saying goes! But the most enduring lesson was one of personal integrity: that the easy path is not always the right one, and that doing the right thing, even when no one is watching, will always serve you well.

Both of my children now attend RHS. They are thriving, and watching them grow in the same environment is something I'm immensely proud of.

WHAT KEEPS YOU GROUNDED OR INSPIRED?

My family, always. While the honour of an MBE carries great personal meaning, I also see it as recognition for the people around me as much as anything I did personally. Achievements like this come with personal cost: long hours, time away, missed special moments. Most of that burden is carried quietly by families, who sacrifice time and presence so that individuals can serve. This belongs to them as much as me.

What inspires me most is witnessing the success of young people – whether soldiers, cadets or students – when they realise leadership isn't something you're given, it's something you choose and earn. Watching that spark is incredibly rewarding.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

I will shortly take command of the Cambridge University Officer Training Corps, supporting the development of our nation's aspiring leaders of tomorrow. It's also only about an hour from Holbrook, so I suspect I'll be back at RHS more often than I've been able to in recent years!

Looking ahead, I hope to keep developing others, particularly through youth organisations such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Cadet Forces. If I can help young people step forward with confidence, serve with purpose, and leave things better than they found them, that will be time well spent. ■

VISIT WWW.ARMY.MOD.UK TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR ARMY LEADERSHIP



From spark to strategy

*What does it take to step away from security and create something wholly your own? For **Lance Williams** (Raleigh, 2001) it's about finding new walls to climb, trusting the spark that became Offerlogic and embracing the lessons that fuel his growth, as he tells **Lauren Bayliss-Fuller**.*

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

After leaving RHS I attended Oxford Brookes University, where I studied Business & International Management with French. My course included a year in industry, which I chose to spend in Paris working for Pilkington Glass as a marketing assistant. Living and working in Paris challenged me to adapt to a new culture, strive for fluency in a foreign language, and develop a strong work ethic. Returning to complete my degree, I graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) and, even more significantly, I had met my future wife in my first week back at university in 2004.

My initial career step was a strategic one: I applied to an IT software sales company that offered to pay off my student loan – a promise they fulfilled. This company, Softcat, was a £40m turnover IT reseller and felt worlds apart from the temporary roles I held during university. At Softcat, I found an environment similar to RHS, filled with encouragement, support, challenge, and ample opportunity. The company floated in 2015, and what began as modest shareholdings eventually became far more meaningful.

In 2021, I left Softcat as a senior manager to take on a C-level and Board role at Distology, a smaller business. After nearly four rewarding years there and at the age of 42, I felt the need for greater autonomy and growth outside the boundaries of someone else's business.



WHAT DOES YOUR WORK LOOK LIKE TODAY?

Offerlogic is dedicated to supporting cybertech companies and their channel partners - managed services providers, resellers, distributors and others – by helping them master their go-to-market strategies in the UK.

What distinguishes Offerlogic is the unique combination of strategic expertise and practical, hands-on execution. Rather than simply delivering reports, I actively become an extension of my clients' teams, working alongside them through focused workshops and consultancy that mirrors fractional CPO/CTO leadership. This approach ensures real progress and drives execution where it matters most.

My primary goal is to empower clients with clarity, enabling them to navigate the market confidently and achieve meaningful, sustainable growth. The result is that my clients' market presence is enhanced, and their 'market mojo' shines.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OFFERLOGIC?

My vision is clear. The business was founded as a platform designed for like-minded individuals – people I trust, who share similar values – to come together and share their expertise with our clients. Over the next five years, I intend to invite only those long-standing friends and trusted associates who I am confident will deliver services to clients with the same level of care and commitment that I would deliver myself.

Should these valued individuals choose not to join, my plan is for Offerlogic to expand through a carefully selected and trusted partner network. Throughout my career, I have often been described as a trustworthy and reliable presence – a 'safe pair of hands'. It is my hope and intention that this reputation for integrity and dependability will continue to be reflected in everything Offerlogic does as the company grows.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL MEMORIES OF YOUR TIME AT RHS?

I can say, hand on heart, that my current path in life would likely have been very different had I not experienced those formative years at RHS. From the outset, I discovered the value of hard work and the right attitude; the culture also taught me to embrace opportunities wholeheartedly.

I was consistently challenged and supported both academically and pastorally.

> My closest friends to this day are those I made at RHS. I am also deeply grateful to have been guided and inspired by remarkable individuals.



My efforts were recognised with annual academic prizes, and I was entrusted with a variety of leadership and representative roles. Notably, I became the youngest Petty Officer in Raleigh House and one of the first in my year, took on the roles of Captain of the 2nd XI football team and the 3rd XV rugby team, and served as Head of Raleigh. My responsibilities expanded further as Deputy Section Leader in the RAF CCF, Senior Petty Officer in Year 12, and Chief Petty Officer in Year 13. As Head Chorister, I had the privilege of singing and dining with royalty – an experience I will never forget. My closest friends to this day are those I made at RHS. I am also deeply grateful to have been guided and inspired by remarkable individuals.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS?

Many of my own most important lessons have a common thread, all stemming from a piece of advice once given to me by Paul Madge in his study: failures often arise from moments of selfishness. Time and again, the setbacks I have encountered were the result of not considering those around me, either through my words or actions, and the negative consequences that followed.

A lack of preparation was a recurring issue for me. For instance, I vividly remember scoring just seven out of 100 in an RHS Sixth Form debate because I chose not to prepare. On another occasion, I was called out during a one-to-one with a former CEO after speaking at a company-wide management meeting. I had not prepared adequately, which resulted in a muddled message and a lost audience. Similarly, I received criticism from a senior manager after a situation rooted in insufficient preparation. So the best advice I can give? Prepare! ■



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LANCE'S WORK VISIT WWW.OFFERLOGIC.CO.UK

PIGEON POST

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

A LIFETIME OF LOVE AND SERVICE



Brian Sullivan (St Vincent, 1951) wrote to tell us he has had much to celebrate recently – his 64th wedding anniversary with his wife, Julia.

Brian first joined RHS in 1947 and was confirmed at the school by JMC Holland, Chaplain RN, in July 1949. While he found school life engaging, it was the sports field that truly captured his heart. He thrived on cricket, football and boxing, earning medals in each and valuable points for his house. He also enjoyed singing in the choir and, as he fondly recalls, "the tuck shop money was a bonus!" His Housemaster at the time was Mr Tate, affectionately known as 'Spud'.



Brian left RHS in 1951 for family reasons, taking on work to support the household before enlisting for three years in the Royal Engineers, 52 Inland Water Transport Squadron. His service took him across the UK, Egypt and Libya, and he completed his time during the Suez Crisis.



Following his military service, Brian began an apprenticeship with Willoughby's Ship Repair Co, which led to a long and successful career with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) and Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service (RMAS). Working on tugs, salvage and trials vessels, he rose through the ranks to become Chief Engineer before retiring at 60.

Brian married Julia in 1961, and together they have built a wonderful family: three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

On 19 August 2025, the couple joyfully celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary – a milestone that stands as a testament to enduring love, dedication and a life richly lived.



RHS CONNECTIONS SHINE AT SANDHURST

Congratulations to Sam Christmas (Raleigh, 2018), who passed out from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 8 August 2025, commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the King's Royal Hussars.

Sam's platoon excelled throughout their training, winning the inter-platoon competition twice and earning the honour of becoming the Sovereign's Platoon, who led the parade and trooped the Sovereign's Banner through the Senior Division.

Proudly watching from the stands were Sam's father and his fiancée, Matthew Christmas and Sarah Talbot, both former RHS staff members. Also in attendance was Liz Polson (Howe, 2004), who returned to RHS to teach before rejoining the Army.

Adding even more RHS pride to the day, the Sovereign's Representative and Reviewing Officer was General Sir James Hockenhull KBE ADC (Raleigh, 1982), currently Aide-de-Camp General to the King and Commander of UK Strategic Command.

HEART OF EM

Founded by EmJ Clark (Cornwallis, 2012), Heart of Em has grown from a lifelong love of flowers into a business that celebrates the beauty and emotion behind every arrangement. Earlier this year, EmJ designed the stunning floral displays for the RHS Year 13 Leavers' Ball, making it the perfect moment to spotlight her blossoming venture.



For EmJ, floristry has always been about more than petals and colour, it's about storytelling. "Whether it's celebrating joy, offering comfort or marking a milestone, I want each arrangement to carry meaning and emotion," she says.

From experimenting at home to gaining formal qualifications and building her brand, EmJ's journey shows what can happen when passion meets purpose. Her advice to others: "Start where you are, stay patient, and value your work."

EmJ's work continues to brighten special moments across the UK. You can explore her creations and follow her journey on Instagram at **@heartofem25**.

JOURNEY THROUGH AUSTRALIA

Anson Goater (Hood, 1954) got in touch to share his latest adventure – an extraordinary journey across Australia to celebrate two very special milestones.

To mark his 85th circumnavigation of the sun and 36 years of marriage, Anson and his wife set off for Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory before boarding The Ghan, a four-day luxury rail experience described as one of the world's great train journeys. Spanning nearly 3,000km from Darwin to Adelaide, the route travels straight through the heart of the continent.

During his flying career, Anson had visited Darwin several times, though never long enough to truly explore it. This time, with four days before joining the train, the couple enjoyed the chance to take in the sights. Darwin, completely destroyed by Cyclone Tracy in 1974, has since been rebuilt into a thriving modern city. A highlight was the Darwin War Museum, a fascinating and beautifully curated tribute to the Battle of Darwin in February 1942. As Anson notes, "it's a little-known fact that more tonnage of bombs was dropped on Darwin by the Japanese than on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii."

Departing Darwin, The Ghan travels south through lush landscapes, making its first stop at Katherine Gorge, where Anson and his wife enjoyed a river cruise and cultural tour. From there, the journey heads inland through the Red Centre, with a day in Alice Springs offering time to explore desert landscapes and learn more about Australia's pioneering and Indigenous history.

Further south, the MacDonnell Ranges fade into vast salt lakes and open plains, showcasing the continent's dramatic contrasts. Onboard, the couple enjoyed fine dining infused with regional flavours, comfortable cabins, and panoramic views from elegant lounge cars, a perfect blend of luxury and adventure.

The couple's arrival in Adelaide marked the end of a truly memorable crossing of Australia's diverse interior and a fitting celebration of life, love, and adventure.



Image courtesy of Journey Beyond

WEDDING BELLS!



On 31 May, Howard Redwood (St Vincent, 1979) and Claire Redwood née Waugh (Cornwallis, 1999) were married in the RHS Chapel. Their relationship resulted from a chance encounter at an RHSA meeting in 2018. The special day was attended by loved ones, including alumni and former RHS staff. The School's Chaplain, Reverend Katherine Page, led the service with Peter Crompton (RHS Organist Emeritus and former Director of Music) playing the Grand Organ for the occasion.

George Franks (Cornwallis, 1981) captured the day and took the professional photographs.

We wish you all the best in your marriage and hope you enjoy your married life!



DRAKE ‘OLD BOYS’ IN SCOTLAND

Having reunited some years ago, with annual meetings now the norm in London, Lincoln and Hereford, a group of Drake Old Boys gathered once again for a memorable few days together. Mike Vertue (Drake, 1971) got in touch to tell us all about it:





“The group included myself, Chris Charlton (Drake, 1973), Tim Redmond (Drake, 1972), Dave Richards (Drake, 1971), and Rik Hudson (Drake, 1970). This year’s reunion took place in May at Chris’s Barend Holiday Lodge in Sandyhills, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Having met Dave at Heathrow (he had travelled all the way from New Zealand!), we journeyed together to Barend in a brand-new hybrid hire car (only eight miles on the clock) arriving mid-afternoon to join Chris and Rik for a well-earned beer. Rik had travelled up the day before by train, arriving three hours later than planned after missing a connection in Birmingham.

“That evening, Chris’s wife treated us to a delicious lasagne with salad and, of course, more beer. We went in search of a nightcap, only to find the on-site bar closed!

“The next day, we visited the Threave Nature Reserve, where ospreys were nesting and spotted the first of many ‘ABCs’ (Another B****y Castle!). We continued to Castle Douglas for supplies – haggis, sausages, gravy and beer from the local Sulwath Brewery – and enjoyed a hearty lunch of Scotch pies and beer. Returning to Barend, we met Tim, who had driven up that day from Surrey.

“The afternoon was spent reminiscing, covering topics such as communal showers at RHS and the pros and cons of wearing a box at cricket! Dinner, once again prepared by Chris’s wife, was steak pie with vegetables and salad, followed by an open bar serving both beer and whisky. Dave and I retired early, due to his jet lag and my ongoing cancer medication. I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in August 2024, received radiotherapy in January 2025, and am now on hormone therapy, thankfully in remission as of 2 May.

“On day three, we headed to Kirkcudbright, spotting several more ABCs en route, including one in the town itself. During a pleasant walk, I discovered I’d left my wallet at Barend, an old trick! We enjoyed a ‘liquid lunch’ at The Masonic Arms, a true pub that proudly serves no food. Kippers were later purchased for future consumption.

“Back at Barend, we lunched on sausage sandwiches before Chris, Dave, and Tim went walking, while Rik and I made sure the beer stayed cold. Unfortunately, Dave took a tumble and injured his left ankle. We made him comfortable with beer and an ice pack before enjoying dinner, haggis to start, followed by Sue’s chilli with pilau rice and salad. A tentative plan was made for next year’s reunion in Liverpool. Despite sore backs, we all managed to get Dave to the bar for a nightcap or two!

“Dave’s ankle improved by the penultimate day, so we enjoyed a more relaxed day. Tim left after breakfast for a walk around Maryport, while Chris and I explored the beach at Sandyhills and the Barend Loch trail, successfully returning uninjured and ready for kippers at lunch.

“Home time came and after farewells, Dave and I headed to the Annandale Distillery to pick up a bottle of single malt before making our way to Doncaster, where I caught a train home to Horsham. Dave stayed with family nearby, while Chris drove Rik to Dumfries for his train home to Devizes.

“It was another wonderful weekend, swinging the lamp and sharing old RHS memories. A huge thank you to Chris (and Mrs Charlton) for their warm hospitality, great food, and faultless organisation. Here’s to Liverpool next year!”

WALKING ON WATER

Over the summer Sophie Atkinson (Anson, 2017) attended the Meeting of European Design Students (MEDS) Summer Workshop in Croatia. Sophie was a tutor for one of the workshop projects called Walking on Water which she designed and ran with her co-tutor, Claudia Crowe.

MEDS hosts annual summer workshops for architecture and design students to foster collaboration, creativity and to create inspiring installations for the host city. This year we were in Rijeka with over 150 participants across 15 projects.

Walking on Water was designed to reignite public and tourist interest in the drinking water fountains of the city, a vital yet underappreciated resource; participants created sculptural installations using metal and recycled cans to highlight their fountain sites. A graphic map was created, with a walking route to link the fountains.



Sophie has attended three previous MEDS events but tutored for the first time this year, now nearing the end of her journey to register as an Architect, MEDS provides a much-needed opportunity to break out of the architectural norm and create amazing designs globally.



NEVER TOO LATE

Bill Rayner (Drake, 1970) wrote to tell us he left RHS with seven CSEs and a feeling that he had wasted his education! Despite that, he went on to enjoy a successful career with the Hertfordshire Constabulary and a very contented life.

After taking early retirement, Bill travelled widely, ran in events across the world, and became active in local organisations. Yet throughout this time, he still felt a desire to continue learning and expand his knowledge.



At the age of 68, he discovered that the University of Lincoln offered a degree in Criminology and Sociology. Although initially doubtful that his lack of formal qualifications would allow him to enrol, a meeting with a professor who recognised his life experience and confidence led to him being accepted onto the course. The degree was full time, with mandatory attendance at lectures and seminars, and Bill loved every moment!

It challenged long-held beliefs, introduced new perspectives, and connected him with a younger generation of students who fondly referred to him as their ‘university grandad.’ His tutors valued his enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to discussions.

In June 2025, Bill completed his studies, graduating with a first-class degree, receiving a school prize, and delivering the student speech at the graduation ceremony in Lincoln Cathedral. Congratulations Bill!

COLLINGWOOD CREW REUNITES

Paul Jones (Collingwood, 1987) let us know, that he has finally reunited with his old Collingwood friends and, after nearly four decades, it was well worth the wait.

In April, nine of the original 11 starters from Collingwood gathered in Oxford for an evening of dinner, drinks and reminiscing. It was the first time this group had all been together since their school days, and the stories flowed as freely as the laughter.

A night to remember, and proof that Collingwood camaraderie stands the test of time.



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

ADAM'S MARATHON MISSION

Congratulations to Adam Warren (Hawke, 2019), who completed back-to-back marathons on 2 and 3 August 2025 as part of RunHunchmanRun, an incredible 52-mile challenge in support of The Hunchman Trust.



Adam joined over 50 runners to take on the two-day event, running from Weybridge in Surrey to Fulham, and then back again the next day. The Hunchman Trust, founded in 2023, was created in memory of 'Hunch', who tragically died by suicide in 2010. The charity supports young people grieving the loss of a loved one, with a particular focus on those affected by suicide, a cause close to Adam's heart.

Adam described the weekend as "an amazing experience spent with fantastic people; friendships were made for life." Together, the team smashed their fundraising target, raising over £130,000, while Adam personally raised an impressive £1,200, more than double his goal.

You can support Adam and The Hunchman Trust via his JustGiving page: **tinyurl.com/AdamWJustGiving**.



HOOKED ON RETIREMENT



Adam Power (Anson, 1982) has finally hung up his working boots and set off on a well-earned retirement, one that he tells us he hopes will be filled with travel, fun, and, most importantly, the pursuit of huge fish on the fly in faraway places!

His adventures have begun with a bang when he landed a spectacular Giant Trevally in the Seychelles, caught in knee-deep water - "like hooking a freight train!" as Adam describes it. Next on the horizon: trout fishing in Wyoming.

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

REUNITED IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Arthur Merchant (Hawke, 1970) got in touch to share a wonderful reunion story from the South of France.

Arthur and George Weeks (Hawke, 1970) recently spent a few days at George's home in Marseillan, where they were joined by old friend Bill Richards (Hood, 1970), someone they hadn't seen since just after they left school in around 1971. Bill, now living in Canada and working as a geologist, was travelling to Toulouse to speak at a climate change conference. In true adventurer style, Bill had flown into Frankfurt before making his way to Toulouse by a combination of cycling and train travel, stopping off in Marseillan for three days, having already cycled an incredible 500km!



Over beers, wine, good food and a little Calvados, the conversation flowed, from RHS memories to Canadian politics, from climate change (it helps to have an expert at the table!) to plenty of laughter.

They also exchanged news of two other contemporaries, Nigel Butcher (Nelson, 1970) and Ted Irvin (Hawke, 1970), and ended the visit with talk of a possible trip to Canada in 2026.

CELEBRATING 89 YEARS

Paul Marshall (Raleigh, 1952) wrote to tell us he celebrated his 89th birthday in true style, surrounded by his wife, extended family and friends in Kuala Lumpur.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

We loved hearing from Chris Ingram (Raleigh, 1956), who wrote to us after his visit for Summer Reunion.

"My sincere thanks to you for gallantly looking after us over the two days while so many other activities were taking place alongside our visit. I found it deeply fulfilling to tour the Houses, explore the School, attend Chapel and join in Gig Night III, where I made friends with several parents at my table. I also enjoyed introducing myself to pupils and exchanging stories about our experiences as RHS students, separated by 70 years!



"Structurally, the School is almost completely unchanged, yet the ethos feels wonderfully different in so many positive ways. The Inter-House Sports Day was a revelation: vibrant, well-supported and full of enthusiasm. It was exciting and memorable for students and parents alike. That afternoon, I also walked the Cross Country course as I remembered it, and on your recommendation included the sea wall to the Creek, bringing back great memories.

"Having borrowed a bike from my Airbnb host in Stutton, I enjoyed the 15-minute ride to and from the School and took the opportunity to cycle around and marvel at the Alton Reservoir.

"I've since shared many photos with my two brothers, one in Cardiff and the other in South Africa, who attended RHS two years before and 10 years after me.

"Once again, thank you for facilitating such an enjoyable alumni weekend, and my thanks also to Tim and the Matron of Raleigh House for their warm hospitality."



REFLECTIONS FROM THE 1960S

Robert Harris (Howe, 1962), best known as the creator of the groundbreaking TV series *Knightmare*, has shared a poem inspired by his memories of life at RHS in the early 1960s. The Far Bank reflects on the atmosphere of that time, when discipline was central to school life and the estuary formed both a physical and symbolic boundary.

Although RHS has changed considerably since then, we're grateful to Robert for sharing his perspective and offering an insight into a very different chapter in the School's history.

THE FAR BANK, BY ROBERT HARRIS

The water kept us in.
Not out.
Tide as timetable.
Mud as margin.
We watched freedom rise
and fall
twice daily
but never came close to
touching it.

Alcatraz in serge shorts.
We didn't need bars.
The river was enough.

Across the water
a rail line.
Sometimes at dusk,
the lights of a train
ghosted across the horizon.

That's where away lived.
Where decisions were made
by men
with coats and tickets.

We stood in silence
on this side of the tide,
learning to drown
without making a sound.

The clocktower chimed doom.
It didn't tell time.
It warned of it.

Each chime a reminder
that time moved without us.
That time belonged to
someone else.

Full moons brought high
tides
and the illusion of
passage.
Silver light spilled across
the estuary
like a bridge drawn by gods
who never finished it.

We watched it from the dorm
windows,
faces pressed to glass
like prisoners waiting for
fog.

There were magical
dimensions,
but always one layer out
of reach
like dreams we were never
allowed to name.

The water rose,
but never enough.


1


2


3

Welcoming alumni back to RHS

One of the highlights of any year is welcoming alumni back for personal tours. Whether you left five years ago or 50, it is always a joy to hear your stories, share in your memories, and walk with you through spaces that still feel like home. Tours offer a wonderful opportunity to reminisce while also seeing how the School continues to evolve, from updated facilities and learning spaces to the vibrant daily life lived by today's pupils.

Where possible, we love to host tours during term time so you can experience RHS at its best: a lively, busy community full of energy and activity, however we can accommodate visits on weekdays during the holidays.

To help us ensure you receive the warmest welcome, advance booking is essential. This allows us to prepare for your visit, arrange appropriate access across the site, and tailor the tour to your interests.


4


5


6


7


8


9


10


11


12


13

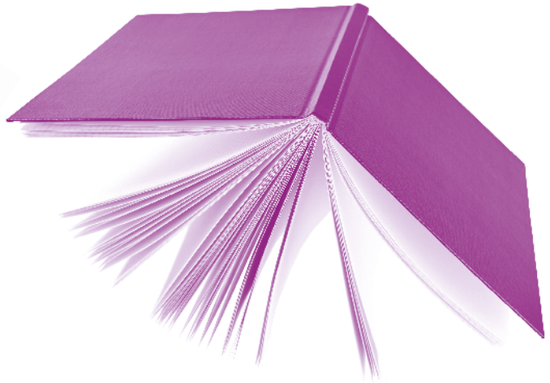

14

1. Charles Pitcher (Nelson, 1966) and his wife Janis
2. Simon Read (Collingwood, 1994) and his daughter
3. Thomas Tam (Anson, 2014)
4. Ollie Lockwood (Raleigh, 2012) and Reagan Ogle
5. Scott Younger (Collingwood, 1989) and his son
6. Adrian Tomlinson (Raleigh, 2004)
7. Mike Scott (Raleigh, 1954), Jo and Duncan Scott
8. David Melton (former staff, 1973-1989)
9. Duncan Swift (Anson, 1963) and his wife Avril
10. Roger Lloyd (St Vincent, 1956) and his wife Liz
11. Patrick Farmar (Howe 1990) and his family
12. Phil Baguley (Blake, 1970) and Patricia Wiles
13. Hood girls (2005) with Barty Hills (Collingwood, 2006)
14. Bob Simmons (Hawke, 1957) with his sons Robert and David

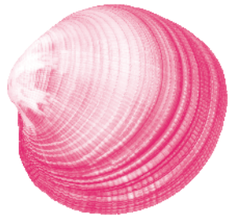
If you would like to arrange a visit, we would be delighted to hear from you, please contact Katie Gould: ***kgould@royalhospitalschool.org***

We look forward to seeing many more of you in 2026!





Alter egos and side hustles



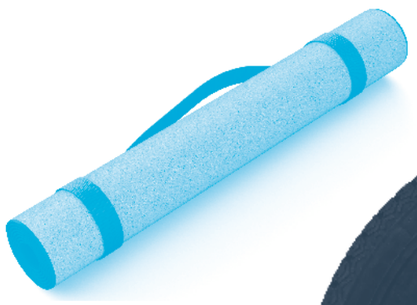


Ever wondered what our alumni get up to once their day job is done? Beyond the offices, workshops and classrooms, they're living double lives, swapping spreadsheets for sketchpads, toolkits and even bagpipes!

In this feature we shine a spotlight on the passions that keep our alumni inspired outside of work, from netball umpiring to quietly penning a first book. This is a celebration of creativity, curiosity and the unexpected talents that make our alumni community so brilliantly multifaceted.













Calling the shots

Amelia Potter (Howe, 2020)

After settling into the rhythm of a 9–5 city job, with much of her time spent indoors at a desk, Amelia found herself missing the energy and teamwork of sport. Remembering her RHS netball days under the guidance of Ms Adams, she decided to get back on court. What started as joining a local team soon evolved into a full-blown side hustle as a netball umpire.

Now officiating matches three evenings a week, Amelia thrives on the buzz of the game, even when mixed teams bring a touch of chaos and extra competitiveness! For her, it's the perfect balance to office life and a rewarding way to stay active while helping others build their own team spirit.

Rebel rousing

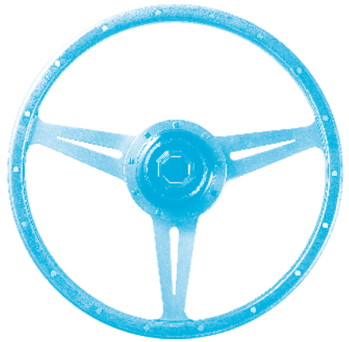
Mark Lundquist (Anson, 1969)

Mark has spent his career running a successful concert agency, Mark Lundquist Concerts, but his latest project took him back to the roots of British rock 'n' roll. In 2024, he released his first book, *Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers*, a labour of love that captures one of music's most exciting eras through the voices of those who lived it.

Drawing on interviews conducted with Cliff Bennett between 2020 and 2022, Mark tells the story of Cliff's rise from post-war Britain and his early days as a foundry worker to fronting one of the most dynamic bands of the 1960s. From their beginnings as The ACME Skiffle Group to their transformation into Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers, the book charts the unstoppable energy that propelled the band to fame.

At the height of their success, Cliff and the Rebel Rousers performed alongside icons including The Beatles, Gene Vincent, The Searchers and Brenda Lee, lighting up stages from the famous Star-Club in Hamburg to university tours across the UK.

Featuring a foreword by Pete Townshend of The Who and contributions from fellow musicians and industry insiders, *Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers* offers a vivid, first-hand account of an extraordinary musical journey. You can buy Mark's book at **Amazon.co.uk**.



Revving up!

Jez Hayter (Drake, 1982)

Just 18 months ago, Jez turned his lifelong passion for classic motors into a thriving side hustle, Mythron Cars, a bespoke venture dedicated to building and restoring vintage Austin Healey race cars. What began as a weekend project has quickly gained momentum, with Jez's beautifully crafted cars featured in several motoring magazines and earning a coveted spot at this year's Goodwood Revival. Balancing his day job with his love of engineering and design, Jez has created something truly special, a brand that celebrates the art, heritage and thrill of classic British racing. Find out more at **www.mythroncars.com**.





Life by the sea

Josie Ruffles (Raleigh, 2020)

Josie has always loved living by the sea in Suffolk, so since moving to London she's spent as many weekends as possible escaping the city to explore new beaches and seaside towns nearby.

One chilly weekend in February, she decided to visit Brighton for the first time and was amazed by the sheer number of mussel shells scattered along the shore. She spent the entire day walking the coastline, collecting shells that caught her eye. At first, Josie hadn't planned to create art for others; she'd always gathered shells simply to decorate her own home. But after that trip, inspiration struck. She began experimenting with turning her finds into art, sharing pieces with friends and family, and soon realised others might love them too.

Now, when she's not working, Josie can be found wandering beaches both in the UK and abroad, gathering shells to transform into unique works of art. She loves capturing the beauty of the sea and the natural messiness of the shoreline, bringing a little piece of the coast into people's homes.

More recently, she's also begun creating bespoke pieces from shells sent by others, each one holding memories of their own seaside adventures.





Piping through life

Stephen Jones (Hawke, 1989)

Stephen has been a qualified accountant for almost 30 years and currently works as a Finance and Resources Lead at an FE college, but outside of office hours, his life strikes a very different note. For 35 years, he's been part of the Suffolk Glenmoriston Pipe Band, serving as Pipe Major for the past 28.

Stephen's passion for piping began after leaving RHS in 1989. Though he hadn't played an instrument at school, he had always loved the ceremonial side of RHS life and was captivated when the pipes and drums of the Gordon's School performed during Sunday Divisions. With a Scottish mother and a Royal Marine father, the pull towards the pipes felt natural, and discovering a local band offering free tuition set him on a lifelong path.

Since then, piping has taken Stephen around the world: performing in the Basel and Hausgauen Tattoos, marking the 65th commemoration of Operation Market Garden, joining the record-breaking largest pipe band in Edinburgh in 1995, and even parading through Florence with the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment.

He estimates he's spent the equivalent of four full years piping or rehearsing, and loved every minute! For Stephen, it's the perfect antidote to daily life: a blend of discipline, tradition and joy.

"They say the definition of a gentleman is someone who can play the bagpipes but doesn't. I'm afraid, therefore, I am no gentleman," he jokes.



Balance and mindfulness

Bonnie Stuart (Howe, 2009)

Bonnie guides people to reconnect with their bodies, reduce stress and build emotional strength through her passion project and business, Embodied by Bonnie. Her practice is dedicated to increasing nervous system resilience through breathwork and mindful movement.

"Embodied by Bonnie brings me back to myself, helping me balance the demands of motherhood and a busy career by nurturing calm, resilience and connection," she explains. It also offers a balance to her main career as an international development consultant. Find out more at **www.embodiedbybonnie.com**.





A FOND FAREWELL



KEITH ROUSE
(Anson, 1951)

Born in East Cowes in 1935, Keith was the eldest child of Charles and Dorothy Rouse. With his father serving in the Royal Navy, Keith's early years were marked by wartime memories, letters from abroad, food parcels from his father, and nights spent in an air-raid shelter in Newport.

Keith dreamt of following in his father's footsteps and joining the Royal Navy; RHS was a formative experience he described as "tough, but doing us all the world of good." A keen sportsman, he excelled in football and boxing, representing the School at County level.

In 1951, his lifelong dream came true when he joined HMS St Vincent as a Boy Seaman. Over the next decade he served on a range of ships, including seeing active service during the Suez Invasion in Cyprus, earning the General Service Medal and Bar.

While on leave, Keith met Leila, with whom he exchanged over 600 letters during his time at sea. They married in 1963 and went on to raise three sons. After leaving the Navy, Keith worked as Assistant Harbour Master at Yarmouth, and later managed the family's guest house in Totland.

In retirement, Keith continued to live life to the full, joining the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service, the West Wight Samba Band, and volunteering as a driver for the elderly. Keith's life was defined by service, laughter and love; a true seafarer's spirit, steady to the end.



JAMES (JIM) LOVEDAY
(Cornwallis, 1964)

Jim joined RHS with his twin brother, Brian, in 1959. Jim's exceptional athletic ability quickly set him apart. He became one of the finest athletes the school had produced, winning the Eastern Counties Cross Country Championship and famously beating future world champion Brendan Foster in the national finals.

After leaving school, Jim joined the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, where he continued to excel as an athlete, representing the Royal Navy at numerous competitions. In 1978, he was part of the first Royal Navy team of four to compete in the US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC.

Jim's first posting was aboard HMS Hermes, on which he later served during the Falklands conflict. His enduring connection to the ship led him, in later years, to become Chairman of the HMS Hermes Association, a role he carried out with deep pride and dedication.

Following his distinguished naval career, Jim joined the Metropolitan Police, serving for many years at Southwark Crown Court until his retirement.

Diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2013, Jim faced the challenges that followed with remarkable courage, resilience and wit. The tenacity that had once carried him across finish lines became the quiet endurance with which he met each day, and always with good humour.

Jim will be remembered for his strength of spirit, a true sportsman and a man of integrity, who lived a life of service and perseverance.



DAVID EDGE
(Former staff)

Born in Devon in 1935, David Edge attended Bideford Grammar School before studying French at Manchester University, where he also developed a lifelong passion for Manchester United. Following National Service, during which he served as a Russian translator in the Army, David began his teaching career in Manchester before joining the Royal Hospital School in 1964.

At RHS, David taught French and English for over three decades, remembered by generations of pupils for his sharp intellect, gentle humour and unwavering dedication. In 1973, he was appointed Housemaster of Cornwallis, a role he held for 15 years. Under his guidance, the House enjoyed a golden era, winning the Queen's Banner three times and the First Lord's Cup for second place on three occasions. Alongside his demanding role as Housemaster, David also raised his three sons – Milford, Crispin and Benjamin – of whom he was immensely proud.

Amusingly, throughout his career at RHS, he was affectionately known as 'Ferret', a nickname inspired by his distinctive beard and moustache.

Beyond the classroom, he was a talented sportsman and a key member of the RHS Bowls Club. His interests were wide-ranging: languages, literature, sport, and the company of good friends.

Following the passing of his first wife Jackie in 1988, David found happiness again with his second wife Mandy, with whom he shared many happy years.

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:

WALTER FRANK ADLAM
(Howe, 1958) December 2025

ANTHONY SIDNEY ALLEN
(Blake, 1951) March 2025

NORMAN WILLIAM APLIN
(Raleigh, 1951) October 2024

BRIAN NEIL BERRY
(Nelson, 1954) July 2024

ALAN EDWARD BURROW
(Blake, 1959) September 2025

ROGER HOWARD BOATMAN
(St Vincent, 1959) July 2025

BRIAN JOHN CHALLIS
(Howe, 1957) March 2025

HYLTON DAWSON
(Anson, 1943) 2024

DAVID ANTHONY ELLIS
(Drake, 1980) December 2024



PAMELA JANET ELLIS
(former staff) September 2025

TIMOTHY JAMES ERNEST FOGGIN
(Drake, 1979) November 2025

ANDREW TAYLOR HENEGHAN
(Collingwood, 1987) October 2025

GEOFFREY LEWIS HAISELL
(Blake, 1943) December 2024

TRENT TRIGELL HOLMES
(Hawke, 1974) August 2025

PAUL KEVIN HUGHES
(Howe, 1983) February 2025

CHRISTOPHER JARVIS
(St Vincent, 1959) March 2024

MICHAEL KIRK
(former headmaster) July 2025

MICHAEL JEFFERSON LAWRENCE
(Nelson, 1974) May 2025

FREDERICK FRANCIS GEORGE LOMAS ***(Hood, 1958)*** June 2024

JAMES WILLIAM LOVEDAY
(Cornwallis, 1964) February 2025

GERALD KEITH MCBURNEY
(Raleigh, 1951) July 2024

PETER MCDERMOTT
(Blake, 1950) September 2025

GRANT MCINTYRE
(Hawke, 1962) October 2024

RONALD MIDDLEMISS
(Cornwallis, 1952) June 2024

ROBERT FREDERICK COLIN MOORE
(Blake, 1958) June 2024

CHRISTOPHER DAVID NICHOLLS
(Collingwood, 1967) November 2025

GRAHAM ROLAND PEARCE
(Cornwallis, 1961) February 2025

KEITH PERKINS
(Anson, 1956) January 2025

JEFFREY JAMES PHILLIPS
(Hawke, 1979) June 2025

ROBERT GEORGE PITT
(Drake, 1960) January 2025

JOHN COLIN HENRY RIDE
(Raleigh, 1962) December 2024

WILLIAM RIMMER
(Raleigh, 1981) December 2024

KEITH CHARLES JEFFREY ROUSE
(Anson, 1951) October 2025

REVD CHARLES STEWART
(former chaplain) August 2025

STANLEY TILSTON
(St Vincent, 1951) December 2024

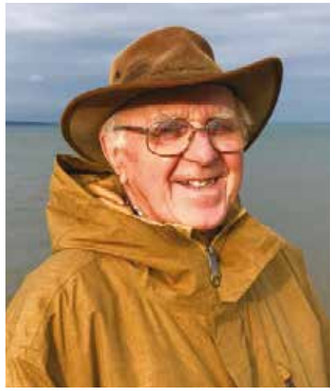
AMIE TOMKINS
(Cornwallis, 1995) 2025

HENRY GEORGE WANNERTON
(Hood, 1956) April 2025

ANTHONY CHARLES WEEKES
(Cornwallis, 1954) May 2025

DAVID ARTHUR WRIGHT DECEMBER
(Hood, 1951) 2024

Remembering a transformative legacy



The Royal Hospital School community was deeply saddened by the news that former Headmaster Michael Kirk passed away on 5 July 2025, aged 87. Serving from 1983 until 1995, Mr Kirk was a truly transformative figure in the history of the School, remembered not only for the major changes he oversaw but also for the warmth, humour and humanity with which he led.

When Michael Kirk arrived at Holbrook, RHS was at a crossroads. For many, the school still felt rooted in an older, more austere era. As Monty Callow (Drake, 1974) reflects, "Before Michael's tenure, the tramp of squads and the bark of prefects were still the soundtrack of the day. This was replaced by the sounds of happy boys and then girls just being themselves. It was transformative, a description which Michael will always be remembered for."

Perhaps Michael's most significant achievement was introducing co-education, a step that permanently reshaped RHS. Navigating the inevitable teething challenges, Mr Kirk created what Monty describes as "a softer, more balanced, natural learning environment for all." Today, it is impossible to imagine RHS without its co-educational character, and it is thanks to his vision and perseverance that this became reality.

Michael's leadership was also expressed in the bricks and mortar of the School. He oversaw the construction of the Prince of Wales block, with its new library, staff common room and classrooms, alongside significant upgrades to the boarding houses. He expanded the design and technology department to embrace the arts and home economics, heralding the introduction of a broader and more creative curriculum. These projects were part of two ambitious five-year development plans that gave the School the facilities it needed to flourish into the 21st century.

Yet the memories shared by alumni remind us that Michael's legacy was not only institutional, but deeply personal. He was not a distant, formal figure but a headmaster who took joy in school life. Former staff recall him popping Champagne corks across the Assembly Hall at the Christmas Ball, playing guitar in Saturday assemblies, joining the choir, and even appearing dressed as a teddy bear playing the cello at Stutton Church. He championed the arts, particularly music, and was instrumental in creating an orchestra. Not one to shy away from creativity, Michael took on the role of one of the policemen in the school's production of The *Pirates of Penzance* in 1988.

Former staff also speak with gratitude for the personal kindness and support they received. Andrew Loveland, who joined the Maths Department in the mid-1980s, remembers being nervous at his interview for his first teaching job. "Michael spoke to me as soon as I arrived and immediately put me at ease. I was delighted to be offered the job, and I have always been so grateful that Michael appointed me that day, for had he made a different decision my life would have taken a very different course." Andrew went on to teach at RHS for 40 years and recalls how Michael's leadership softened the atmosphere of the school while also overseeing big changes, including the creation of Nelson House and the introduction of co-education.

Malcolm J Hopker (St Vincent, 1961), who interviewed for the post of Bursar during Kirk's early years, also remembered his kindness: "He was kind and appeared interested in what I had to say, and I felt we could work well together on the challenges facing RHS. Over the years I observed the positive developments he presided over and the balance he maintained."

Even after his retirement, Michael Kirk remained closely connected to RHS. He attended nearly every Speech Day, showing the same loyalty and pride in the community he had helped to shape. He believed, characteristically, that the time eventually came for a new headmaster with fresh energy and ideas, but he never stopped caring for the school or its people.

It is rare for one headmaster to be remembered as so deeply transformative, but that is the word alumni use again and again. Michael Kirk guided RHS with compassion, vision and humour at a time when change was both necessary and challenging. He softened what had been austere, broadened horizons, and opened the doors to a new future. Above all, he is remembered as a man who was never afraid to be himself, and in doing so, allowed RHS to become more fully itself too. ■





Above: Michael Kirk and Queen Elizabeth II at the Tercentenary Parade, May 1994.

LOOKING BACK

RHS ARCHIVE

10 YEARS AGO **2015**

25 YEARS AGO **2000**

50 YEARS AGO **1975**

CRICKET TOUR TO BARBADOS

During the Easter holidays, 25 RHS cricketers travelled to Barbados for an 11-night tour. At the Franklyn Stephenson Academy, they trained with former West Indies international Tino Best and met Sir Everton Weekes, before playing five fixtures against local schools and clubs.

The U14s beat Isolation CC and Queen's College, but lost narrowly – by one run – to North Stars CC. The U15s, facing teams including Barbados U15 internationals, recorded victories over Wildey CC and Lodge School. Rain unfortunately cancelled both sides' final matches.

Off the field, the group enjoyed an excursion to Harrison's Caves, off-road adventures, and a catamaran cruise. Pupils also had the chance to meet West Indies legends including Sir Garry Sobers, Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes.

DISTINGUISHED VISIT OF THE GRAND TURK

On 12 May, RHS welcomed The Grand Turk into the Port of Ipswich. The ship was met on arrival by the Guard and Band, who provided a formal salute as she came alongside. The Grand Turk is a replica of an 18th century British frigate from the Napoleonic period and has appeared in a number of films and television series, including the series *Hornblower*.



During the visit pupils had the opportunity to step on board, to see naval history up close and to ask the crew questions about the challenges of sailing a traditional vessel.

Before leaving the area, The Grand Turk made a final appearance closer to home. She sailed up the River Stour, where pupils and staff gathered to watch her pass the School as a broadside was fired as she went past.



INTER-HOUSE BOXING

The 1975 Inter-House Boxing Championships were a major event in the school calendar, drawing an impressive 158 entries from across the houses. The bouts were closely fought, showcasing the determination and competitive spirit of the pupils. At the end of the contest, it was Hood who retained the trophy, confirming their dominance in the ring.



According to the School magazine, these championships had long been a gala occasion, one of the true highlights of school life. For many years, the finals were a centrepiece event, bringing together the whole community to cheer on the boxers and celebrate the courage of those willing to step into the ring.

ROYAL
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

LBAYLISS-FULLER@ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG 01473 326110
KGOULD@ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG 01473 326183
RKIDGER@ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG 01473 326295
WWW.ROYALHOSPITALSCHOOL.ORG/ALUMNI
RHS FUTURES AND ALUMNI OFFICE @RHSALUMNIOFFICE
RHS FUTURES AND ALUMNI OFFICE