2026 Report of the Membership Secretary

To the AGM on Saturday 7th November 2026

Welcome to all present and to all RHSA alumni wherever you are.

I have pleasure in presenting my 10th report.

Part 1 – The role of the Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary is responsible for:

1. **Developing and implementing a membership strategy.**
   It comes as a surprise to a some ex-students that they automatically become Life Members of the RHSA when they leave the school, irrespective of their year of leaving. Basic data is transferred to InTouch – the database which is used and constantly updated with membership records. Some of what I do is updating the database with things like change of contact details; but also filling gaps where we have little information and of course recording demises.
   I am able to utilise the data to assist alumni get in touch by acting as a sort of 'go between'.
   I also use Ancestry, 192.com and My Heritage to help 'unearth' those were minimum records exist. The RHSA support these subscriptions to help me do my job.
   Keeping in touch
   Members can be involved as little or as much as desired
   - Receiving termly newsletters and The Gidge (Annually)
   - FaceBook. Many groups exists but the two largest are "The RHS Arms" and "The RHS Golden Years" – some exist for specific interest groups like rugby or sailing; or some are based in areas around the world.
   - WhatsApp – various groups exist and I will always assist anyone who want to reconnect using this application
   - TikTok.
   - Instagram.
   - LinkedIn – the careers network supports those wanting advice on career opportunities or want to help others.

2. **Keeping the membership records up to date.**
   This is undertaken on a regular basis when information comes to light.

3. **Continue promoting the use http://rhsarchives.daisy.websds.net/ of the RHS digital archive**

4. **Conducting correspondence with regard to Alumni membership and the School.**

Recent work

As well as the more routine aspects of my role sometimes there are specific projects that I undertake.

- **Supporting the arrangements for Neville Long's funeral**

- **Supporting 1976 starters – *especially with the HMS Belfast dinner***
- **Supporting the 1979 leavers for a 2029 reunion**
- **Supporting 67ers for a 60th anniversary reunion ion 2027**

Part 2 - The RHS Futures and Alumni Office

This section highlights the work of the Alumni Office

Thanks at the outset to the Headteacher and the RHS Futures and Alumni Office who work in partnership with the RHSA to help alumni to connect and inspire the next generation

Information for Alumni is available on the school's website at:
https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni
On Instagram: @rhsalumnioffice or FaceBook RHS Futures and Alumni Office

The key staff (the ones in the know) are:
Lauren Bayliss-Fuller
Head of Community and Alumni Relations & Head of Futures
lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org
t: 01473 326200

Here are some highlights, illustrating the engagement and ongoing work of the Alumni Office

Alumni Post

This is the termly e-newsletter produced and emailed to all RHSA members. In 2026 edition 2 was published in February; edition 3 in May; and edition 4 in October. My thanks to the Futures and Alumni office for keeping us up to date. There are many stories, achievements and opportunities to read about in the e:newsletters – a variety of updates and celebrations too many to cover here. But, some extracts follow in my report. Please keep your contact details up to date to ensure you get all the news. Especially you email address.

For all recent Alumni news go to https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/alumni-news

Royal Hospital School – Futures & Alumni Office

Over the last year the structure of the Alumni Office and its personnel have changed.

Following the departure of Becky Kidger, (Community and Alumni Relations Administrator) earlier this year, we also said goodbye in August to Katie Gould, (Community and Alumni Relations Executive).

Both Becky and Katie made exceptional contributions to our alumni community, supporting events, reunions, tours, communications and individual enquiries. They helped alumni reconnect with one another and with the Royal Hospital School and played a vital role in preserving and celebrating the stories that make our community so special

Katie and Becky wanted to share a few words with you all.

A message from Katie:

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful alumni community for the support, kindness and friendship you've shown me over the past few years.

Returning to the Royal Hospital School to work has been a genuine privilege. As an alumna myself, it has been incredibly special to come back to the place that helped shape the person I am today. I have often thought how lucky I was to have a job that I truly loved (most of the time!) in a community that has always meant so much to me

The favourite part of this role has been getting to know so many of you. Whether welcoming you back to the School for tours and events, chatting over the phone, exchanging emails or simply hearing your stories and memories of your time here, every conversation has been a reminder of just how special the Royal Hospital School is and the lifelong connection so many of us share with it

Thank you for sharing your memories, your achievements and your continued support for the School. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of your alumni journeys

I will miss this role enormously and leave with so many wonderful memories. If you would like to stay in touch, I would be delighted to connect with you on LinkedIn. I hope our paths cross again in the future

A message from Becky

One of the greatest joys of my time in the Alumni Office has been listening to your memories come back to life. Whether through a phone call, an email or a handwritten letter accompanied by treasured photographs, it has been a privilege to hear your stories and share in so many milestone moments

It has been a pleasure to piece together the remarkable history of this very special school, one story at a time. Watching faces light up while revisiting an old boarding house or walking through familiar parts of the School has shown me that no archive or photograph can capture its spirit quite like an Old Boy or Old Girl sharing their memories.

What has struck me most is how a relatively short chapter in someone's life can remain such a defining part of who they are, even at 80, 90 or 100 years of age.

It has been a genuine privilege to be entrusted with your stories and to speak with alumni of every generation, from recent leavers to those who left many decades ago. Thank you for sharing your memories with me. It has been an extraordinary privilege to be part of this very special community

On behalf of the RHSA and all its members I propose a vote of thanks to Becky and Katie for their service to the Association and the school

Tours

The Futures & Alumni Office love welcoming alumni back to RHS so we can share the school with you. Your visits are an important part of maintaining strong connections to our alumni community. To provide the best experience for our visitors, we encourage tours during the school week and term time, allowing you to see RHS at its best and most active

To book a tour please contact: Lauren – lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org

Have you got something to share? An item for Alumni Post?

We love sharing your news and stories with alumni and the wider RHS Community. If you have something you would like us to share email us, we love hearing from you.

- New business start-up

- Memories from school days: school photos: you in your number ones, a group of friends, plays/musicals you took part in, or memories of sports matches.
- Raising money for charity
- Reunions with school friends
- Events you are planning
- What you have been up to since leaving RHS eg. careers to date, retirement adventures
- AND anything else you would like to share with the RHS Community

Alumni memoirs shared this year in Alumni Post

A thanks to those who have contributed

From February 2026

Charles Pitcher, (Nelson 1961 – 1966) writes

Once RHS is in your blood it stays there.

I joined RHS Nelson House in April/May 1961, like many other boys of that era, having recently returned from Singapore. The house was full of very talented seniors which was a great inspiration to us 'new jacks'. I joined at the start of the summer term and the house was on the cusp of winning the King's Banner for the first time, we then went on to win it a couple more times in my time there. Being in such company taught me to work hard and give my best. I believe I took the following from my days at RHS: being tidy (even my wife agrees with that), team player, dry sense of humour, banter, respect for authority, the ability to get on with others and to give my best. Once RHS is in your blood it stays there.

I represented the house at most sports, the school in cross country and sailing and county in cross country. I played horn e-flat and slide trombone in the school band and remember playing at school parades, local fetes and the Royal Tournament.

On leaving RHS I did an electrical engineering apprenticeship and went on to work for the Civil Service as an Engineer, Quality Assurance, Project Management, safety/environment, serving in various locations both in the UK and overseas. I retired after 45 years in the Civil Service and went back to work for a further 10 years as a Contractor.

I'm now retired and living with my wife Janis in the Bristol area. We have two children and four grandchildren. We both enjoy playing golf at our local golf club where I have served as club captain and my wife as ladies captain.

Leonard Moody, (Hawke, 1955) writes

We have had a great life.

It is now 70 years ago that as a young man I left RHS. At that time, it felt it was just a young boy's school with most having lost one or both of their parents during WW2.

My Mum became a war widow before she was 23 years old and I was not 3 years old. My Father died on the sinking of the large ship HMS Dasher in early 1943. 370 young men died that day, my dad was just 28 years old.

I left RHS and started a job in Portsmouth Dockyard as a riveter's boy I left after 10 months or so and moved to working on the channel ferries travelling to France most nights. At that time, I had no great wishes just worked a job and had several different ones.

At 19 years old I married my childhood sweetheart. We had two children and have five grandchildren and now our 65 years wedding anniversary. I continued with work in the insurance world in various part of the country and in the building industry and finally started my own business at the old age of 55 in supplying products to the trade in the

decorating and protective coatings industry, it turned out to be the best of all my working life but decided to retire at 68 when we had lovely grandchildren we wished to spend time with. We have had a great life, but it goes far too quickly though.

From May 2026

Chris Sims (St Vincent, 1973) writes

After leaving RHS in 1973 I became a teacher and taught for 32 years before retiring aged 63.

During my teaching career I took pupils on many expeditions to all parts of the world - the more remote the better (including a memorable, if fraught, school expedition to Papua New Guinea where we walked the Kokoda Trail in memory of the soldiers who lost their lives fighting the Japanese during WW2). Trekking and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions took their toll and in 2017 I had my first full knee replacement; quickly followed a year later by the other knee. I lapsed into your typical couch potato and it wasn't until I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes and borderline obesity that I decided it was time to take charge of my life.

My wife had just started to participate in Park Runs and I would walk round very slowly to offer my support. Gradually I began to walk faster, then to power-walk and finally I started to run the 5km distance. A strict regime of dieting, weight training and walking/running saw me lose nearly five stone and I set myself the challenge of a 10km run. I accomplished this in 2022 and took part in a wonderful small half marathon - the Cambridge Boundary Run. Organised by undergraduate students, this lovely event caters for both half and full marathon runners. By many a year I was the oldest to take part and came in last but was happy to have completed the half marathon distance.

In the last four years I have competed in over 70 10km and half marathons, including both the Oxford and Cambridge half marathons annually. I take part with my wife and we raise money for the local Dementia Choir she sings in. I am not fast but get a great deal of pleasure from racing all over the East Midlands meeting a whole range of people of differing abilities. I have come to realise that for some their goal is to win but for most it is enough simply to take part and to share the pleasure in still being able to be active in old age. I hope I encourage others with disabilities or who are older to know there is hope. I am grateful to my surgeon for giving me a new lease of walking/running life.

Business Directory

We are excited to share a new initiative we launched in February 2026: the RHS Business Directory, a new digital publication designed to showcase and support businesses run by RHS alumni, parents, friends of the school and local businesses. Hosted on the school website and shared directly with our parent, alumni and supporter community of over 4,000 contacts, it provides businesses with long-term visibility within a trusted and engaged audience.

The directory is open to all types of businesses, whether you're a sole trader, run a small or medium-sized business, or are part of a larger organisation. Advertising is offered as a one-off cost (with no ongoing fees), unless you choose to update your advert in the future.

Most importantly, every advert placed in the directory directly supports our Centennial Bursary Campaign (Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust, charity no.1157146).

1. Review the Business Directory rate card for full instructions: https://tinyurl.com/DirectoryRateCard
2. Complete the advertising form: https://forms.office.com/e/2UrJ1VCnsZ
3. Email your artwork/advert to businessdirectory@royalhospitalschool.org

Here is a link to the current directory: https://tinyurl.com/BusinessDirectoryIssue1

Dates for you diary

A Christmas Carol - 25, 26 & 27 November 2026

Step into Victorian London this Christmas as the RHS Drama Department brings Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol to the stage. Expect festive atmosphere, haunting encounters and plenty of theatrical magic as Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.

Carols By Candlelight- Wednesday 9 December 2026

Experience the magic of an RHS Christmas at Carols by Candlelight. Set in the candlelit chapel and based on the school's traditional end-of-term carol service, the evening features beautiful music from the Chapel Choir, joined by pupils from Holbrook and Stutton Primary Schools. With traditional readings, congregational carols and seasonal refreshments, this is a wonderful opportunity for the local community to enjoy the warmth and spirit of the Royal Hospital School at Christmas.

For further information contact
Lauren Bayliss-Fuller lbayliss-fuller@royalhospitalschool.org

My thanks

I place on record my thanks to Lauren Bayliss-Fuller, Katie Gould & Rebecca Kidger.
They have been of great support throughout my time as MemSec – forever on hand, at the end of the phone, to give advice, chase me up, and answer the most obvious questions! Diplomatic and enthusiastic colleagues who always endeavour in bringing the RHSA and School community closer together.
Also, I place on record my appreciation to the technical team of InTouch. Thanks to Chris, Carol, and Simon.

In addition, my colleagues on the GC deserve recognition – Philip Howard, Nick Gill, Aimee Frankham and retiring Treasurer Stephen Traynor who have continued to work with the school to ensure things haven't just stood still. A provisional welcome to Steve Thornhill who has been nominated to take over as Treasure

Also, thanks to all the work of Maggie Good in assisting with the input of historical data onto InTouch and being a critical friend.

And finally, a thanks to all those members who are actively engaged at whatever age in supporting the work of the RHSA, the School and the Foundation. I am very well supported in my role by all these people. I also feel that we need more members actively supporting the work of the GC and would ask interested persons, who could spare the time and irrespective of age, to put themselves forward.

Part 3 Membership secretary's report November 2026 – Demises

The following table lists the members of the RHSA who report deaths have been recorded since I made my last report in 2025. 37 in total – including some very elderly old boys and Neville Long a longstanding and very respected member of staff.

This list will also appear in the next edition of 'The Gidge'.

I have received several requests this past year for a full list of all reported and recorded demises.

These demises currently total around 3883 from 1918 birth years onward until the present day. The records are always going to be incomplete but work is ongoing.

One of my actions over the next few months will be to produce a full list and make this accessible to alumni. Certainly I will aim to have a copy placed in the RHS Digital Archive.

Many records are based on my historical record tracing. I constantly continue with this aspect of my role using family history sites such as MyHeritage and Ancestry. Please contact me if you know any members who have died recently – mlucas@royalhospitalschool.org.

I feel it is important to record and report the death of all members wherever possible and whatever the circumstances.

They should all always be remembered.

RHSA Eulogy for absent friends

"Let us remember those who have crossed the Great Divide; That we are grateful to them for sharing part of their lives with us. And may all our members, present and future, have their God's speed and fair winds through the seas of Life. May we remember that our start in life was at the Royal Hospital School".

Written by Garth Webber, Vice President of the P&SW Branch

Firstname	Surname	House	Born	Deceased
Walter Frank	Adlam	Howe	1942	6 December 2025
David Stanley William	Blackman	Hawke	1939	3 May 2026
Bruce Thomas	Brookes	Collingwood	1946	27th June 2026
Martin Christopher	Cocker	Raleigh	1939	22 March 2026
Neville Robert	Croll	Hawke	1936	5 April 2026
Douglas Robert Dennis	**Day**	**St Vincent**	**1926**	**2026**
Brian	Degnan	Hawke	1954	November 2025
Colin Howard Joseph	Erridge	Blake	1940	24 July 2026
Brian David	Faulkner	Hawke	1936	01 March 2026
Christopher James	Fitch	Hood	1936	2026
Tim James Ernest	Foggin	Drake	1961	November 2025
John William Stanley	Grout	Anson	1931	17 June 2025
Graham George	Hall	Anson	1934	03 April 2026
Alan George	Hayward	St Vincent	1941	23 May 2026
Brian George Samuel	**Holmes**	**Collingwood**	**1928**	**7 January 2026**
Arthur	Hovell	Hawke	1935	April 2026
Robert William	Humphrey	Blake	1945	October 2025
Paul	Latham	Hawke	1948	5th July 2012
Melville Walter	Lloyd	Drake	1931	12 January 2025
Neville	**Long**	**Staff**	**1931**	**16th January 2026**
Richard Arthur	**Mason**	**Collingwood**	**1924**	**25 April 2026**
Michael Alan	Moxey	Howe	1953	31 December 2025
Raymond Derek	Newman	Blake	1939	April 2026
Christopher David	Nicholls	Collingwood	1949	21 November 2025
John William	Parkes	St Vincent	1956	25 November 2025
Christopher Henry	Petty-Mayor	Hawke	1940	15th August 2026
Barry Anthony	Powell	Drake	1940	May 2025
Anthony Hugh Gregory	Raggett	Howe	1943	2026
Leonard David	Smith	Howe	1935	22 May 2026
Rev Charles	Stewart	Staff		08/11/2025
Rodney Charles	Thorpe	Raleigh	1934	30 March 2025
Norman Edward	Towell	Blake	1936	18 April 2025
Brian Robert	Vinson	Collingwood	1936	30 December 2025
Leonard George	Walsh	Hawke	1931	24 August 2025
John Steele	Whitehead	Cornwallis	1956	15th December 2025
Brian George	Wiggins	Blake	1948	August 2025
Kenneth John	Wilson	Hawke	1955	1st September 2025