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You can now find a dedicated RLS Alumni page on Facebook >

## Welcome to our eighth edition of Latin Life



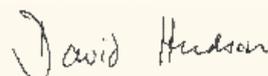
Welcome to *Latin Life* and, as you will see, our links with Old Latins go from strength to strength. We have hosted several reunions this year and have more planned for the future.

It has been a real pleasure to meet so many more of you – some for the first time, whilst many more are beginning to feel like old friends. If you haven't been able to come back to RLS then I hope you are able to join together with your peers to organise a visit in the near future.

The school has had another successful and exciting year. Particular highlights have focused on the sporting side of life – our Football 1st XI won

the County Cup (beating Dr Challoner's Grammar 6-0 in the Final!) for the very first time in the school's history, and our U13 Girls' Rugby team won the National Final! Both were truly impressive performances and evidence that sport is as strong as ever at the Latin. Just imagine what we could do with the upgraded sporting facilities planned for Phase 2 of the 600 Campaign!

Please do feel free to visit us as and when you are able and follow what we are doing, either via the website, Facebook or Twitter.



David Hudson, Headteacher



## RLS Alumni Drinks

Wednesday 12th October 2016

6.30pm - 9.30pm

Hush, 8 Lancashire Court,  
Brook Street, London

A great excuse to meet up with classmates – or just bring yourself and your memories! Please pop in, we'd love to see you. There's no charge – we just ask you to pay for your own drinks.

Please email [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) to confirm your attendance.

[www.hush.co.uk](http://www.hush.co.uk)

## Archive Open Day



Mr Cooper with Old Latins in the Archive Room

On Friday 29th April we welcomed about 100 Old Latins and members of the local community to our annual Archive Open Day at RLS. The Archive room in Rotherfield House and the adjacent lecture theatre were almost full to capacity as guests delved into the RLS archive material on display and caught up with old friends over afternoon tea.

John Mellors gave a fascinating account of the previous owners and occupiers of Brookfield House through history, and Keith 'Tricky' Watts almost brought the house down with laughter with his hilariously-irreverent yet fond recollections of his time at RLS in the 1970s, and of how one lesson inspired a life-long career as a television cameraman. Many Old Latins will remember Keith's mother, Peggy Watts, who was school secretary at RLS for many years. Later in the afternoon guests were also provided with the opportunity to tour the school with Headteacher, David Hudson, and the new Discovery Centre with Development Director, Jo Ballantine.

It was great to see some 'new' Old Latin faces at the event, including Jennifer Beckett (née Jones) from the Class of 1959 (whose brother and sister, Jeff and Margaret, were also at the RLS at around the same time), and also Barbara Chapman (aka Bethanne Brummell), who was the first ever girl boarder at the school in 1967. The 'prize' for the Old Latin who travelled the furthest for the event should probably go to Dorothy Shaw (née Johnson, of the Class of 1952) who made the trip from her home in Solihull.

Thank you to everyone who attended – especially to those who donated new material for our growing archive. And thank you, in particular, to Andy Cooper for organising such a successful and enjoyable event for all.

## A Final Retirement for Andy Cooper



When Andy retired from his post as Deputy Head in 2012 we were fortunate to secure his ongoing services as Alumni Relations Manager with a specific brief to set up the school's Archive, based in Rotherfield. Four years on, he has made a wonderful contribution to establishing the Archive as a very important part of school life.

For many years our rich range of archive materials sat rather sadly in boxes and lurking in filing cabinets. On the back of a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £25,000, secured by Jo Ballantine, Andy was able to bring all of our artefacts into one place and make them available for Old Latins and current students. Andy has now established a vibrant room in which old programmes, school magazines, exercise books, school photographs and much

much more stand as an evocative reminder of former years. He has also begun to scan in documents to establish a base of virtual resources.

Of course Andy has also been at the heart of bringing back so many Old Latins to meet up and see the current developments in school. The Archive Day (as close as possible to 1st May each year) has become a regular feature of the calendar and we have all enjoyed his apparently effortless ability to bring together Old Latins from different generations.

Now Andy has decided that retirement really does mean that life exists beyond the gates of the Latin! We are hugely grateful to him for his great enthusiasm and huge knowledge of the school's history. We wish him all the very best for the future and rest assured that he will still be a regular visitor to a school to which he has given such unstinting and remarkable service.

**The Archive is now being ably run by Robert Munday (Class of 1970) and Lucy Beckett, RLS Development Assistant. If you would like to arrange to come and browse the archive or have any items you would like to donate to the archive, please do email us at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)**

## Old Latins vs Akeley Wood Old Boys Rugby Match



Victorious Old Latins XV

A great day of rugby was had on 1st May 2016, when Buckingham RUFC kindly hosted a match between the alumni of RLS and Akeley, along with a friendly between the two first XVs.

A sizeable crowd turned up to spectate, and to the delight of the RLS supporters, The Royal Latin won both matches, with scores of 24-17 and 22-21 respectively. Well done to both teams, and special thanks to Tom Jones, Captain of the Old Latins, for pulling the team together and doing us proud! We very much hope the match will become an annual fixture, so watch this space.

**Do you fancy competing in an RLS shirt again? We'd love to hold more sporting fixtures for Old Latins, so please get in touch if you'd like to participate or organise a match!**

## Tribute to Old Latin killed in action July 1916



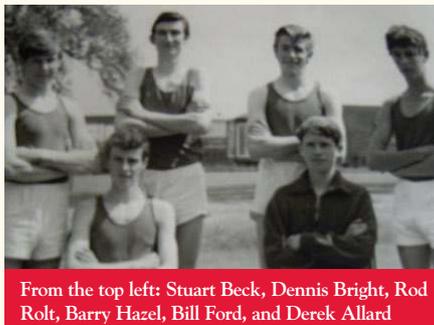
Year 12 English Captain, Samantha Abbott, laying wreath at the grave of Ernest

The Royal Latin School paid tribute to Old Latin, Private Ernest William Broughton with the laying of a wreath at his grave in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery in The Somme, France on 9th July.

Ernest was killed in action, aged just 23 one hundred years ago on the 23rd July 1916 whilst serving with The Warwickshire Regiment, 14th Battalion. Ernest was educated at The Royal Latin and Kings College, London before being articled to a firm of Chartered Accountants in Birmingham. As part of the Royal Latin School two-day Literature Tour to WW1 sites in Ypres and The Somme, the visit concluded with an emotional ceremony of readings, poems and music at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery.

Year 12 English Captain, Samantha Abbott, then had the honour of laying the wreath at the grave of Ernest on behalf of The Royal Latin School.

## Sporting Memories



From the top left: Stuart Beck, Dennis Bright, Rod Rolt, Barry Hazel, Bill Ford, and Derek Allard

Thank you to Rod Rolt (Class of 1965) for sending us a copy of this photo from what he believes to be the first cross country team put together by Mr Collis, which Rod, rather

modestly remembers as being 'quite successful':

*'I can well remember having to cycle seven miles from Charndon, run the race, and then cycle the seven miles back, at times in quite inclement weather. It certainly set me up for my career in the Army, and later the Police.'*

Rod was in the last intake into the now-Grenville Academy premises and the first into the new premises, the current RLS location, and recalls that this was the first time that the school at the Grenville site entered into a two-stream class system,

*'I remember with fondness many of the teachers, particularly Reg Howard, and Mrs Maslen. Also Mr Taffy Williams, with his Welsh tones - I can still recite, "In the beginning was the word . . ." in a passable Welsh accent.'*

Rod went on to join the Army in 1965; 'I will not say what Corps, but one required five O' levels to enlist even as a private at that time', saw service in Aden ('very exciting') followed by Germany, Malta and Northern Ireland. After ten years in the Army, Rod went on to join the Police for twenty years. Now retired, he is an avid traveller.



## The next phase...

Phase 2 of our 600 campaign aims to deliver improvements to the school's sports and 6th form facilities (with phase 3 being a new Arts Centre for Art, Drama and Music).

## Sports Campus

Investing in improving the sports facilities at the school has long been a priority. We are proposing an exciting transformation of our sporting facilities in order to overcome our site limitations.

Rather than adopting a piecemeal approach, we believe that the creation of a Sports Campus will enable us to not only overcome our current constraints, but will create a passionate whole school sports and fitness ethos and revolutionise the sporting education we can offer.

### Our Sports Campus will include:

- a new sports building incorporating:
  - fitness suite
  - sports science seminar room
  - data analysis suite
  - medical/physio room
  - viewing gallery
- changing rooms
- a full size all weather, full contact rugby/football pitch
- new long jump
- levelling & floodlighting the existing grass pitch
- floodlighting the tennis & netball courts



### A Message from Will, RLS Year 11, Wasps & England U16 rugby player:

*'I've undoubtedly experienced the reward hard work can bring. But I've also received multiple injuries: a collar bone break, broken fingers and ligament ruptures in my ankle. With the support of the PE department, I reduced the time in which I recovered . . . only after experiences like these do you appreciate the importance of sport in school and the friendly environment surrounding young people. The teachers have played a massive role in my development. With increased funding and facilities, I know this will continue for other pupils in the future.'*

Will's achievements, resilience and willingness to inspire others - including encouraging the girls to get stuck into the game - demonstrate the huge impact that sporting success can have not only on the individual, but on the culture of the whole school. The Sports Campus will enable us to better support more students to pursue their sporting dreams alongside their academic studies, as well as to inspire every single student to have a go, and be more active.

**Please visit [www.rs600.com](http://www.rs600.com) to find out lots more about the Sports Campus and the huge impact it will have on our students.**



There are all sorts of things you can do to help these early weeks of the campaign:

## Sports Campus: How you can play your part

We need to raise £3m to create the Sports Campus. This is another huge challenge for the school, and we need the whole school community to get involved, so that we can demonstrate to major funders like Sport England and the sport governing bodies that we have the support of alumni and parents.

We're planning fundraising events including a **Golf Day** and **'Sports Ball'** at **Whittlebury Park** on 23rd September and a **Sporting Heroes Dinner at the Emirates Stadium** by kind permission of Arsenal FC on 17th November, so please do support those events if you can. We'll also be launching a Buy A Brick scheme and a Wall of Heroes sponsorship scheme to raise funds for the new pavilion, so keep an eye on [www.rls600.com](http://www.rls600.com) for news on those in September!

Watch our campaign video on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqxNy3ePKac&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqxNy3ePKac&feature=youtu.be) and share it with as many people as possible

Put us in touch with Old Latins or family members working in the sports industry who might be interested in helping

Tell us your stories about PE and sports at RLS so that we can share them in the next issue of Latin Life

Attend one of our fundraising events (see details overleaf) – or organise your own!

Visit [www.rls600.com](http://www.rls600.com) to find out more about our plans or to make a straightforward donation

Follow our progress on the RLS600 Campaign page on Facebook, and on Twitter – the more people who find out about our aims, the better!

If you would like to discuss how you can best help, please contact Jo Ballantine at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)



## Sporting Heroes

We've been asking Sporting Heroes to lend their support to the campaign too. Olympians Duncan Goodhew and Mark Foster are amongst the first to have shown their support.

Other Heroes to have stepped forward to show their support include eleven times Gold Paralympic medallist Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, F1's Marc Gené, Olympic Pentathlete Dominic Mahony MBE and members of the British Olympic Gymnastics team, including Louis Smith MBE.

**Who is your Sporting Hero? Who was your Sporting Hero in your school days? Was it a famous sportsperson, or perhaps a teacher or a fellow student? Please let us know – email [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)**



**600 Sports Campus**  
Campaign  
Energise • Enjoy • Excel



By kind permission of Arsenal Football Club

You are invited to join us for a

## 'Sporting Heroes Dinner'

on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, from 7pm  
to be held at

The Emirates Stadium

Join us for a spectacular celebration of sporting heroes hosted by  
BBC television sports personality **Chris Hollins**



- ∞ Drinks reception ∞ Dinner ∞ Guest Speaker ∞
- ∞ Interviews with Sporting Heroes ∞
- ∞ The Ultimate Sports Auction ∞
- ∞ Silent Auction ∞

Individual tickets from £140

Silver tables of ten from £2,500

Gold tables of ten from £3,750 inc. stadium tour & VIP reception  
Exclusive Event Sponsor Package available – please ask for details

For tickets & enquiries please email [rls600@royallatin.org](mailto:rls600@royallatin.org) – early booking advised



Join us for

## 'The Sports Ball'

Friday 23rd September 2016, 7pm-1am  
at Whittlebury Park Golf Club, Northamptonshire  
in aid of the Sports Campus at  
The Royal Latin School, Buckingham



Tickets: £65 each,  
tables of 8 or 10 available

- ◆ Drinks Reception ◆ 3 Course Dinner
- ◆ Dancing ◆ Live music from award winning band 'The Choice' ◆ Sports Themed Photobooth
- ◆ Superb Auction ◆ Sports Games
- ◆ Special Guests

Bring your friends, relatives  
and colleagues and enjoy a glittering and  
fun-filled black tie evening in a stunning parkland setting

Email [rls600@royallatin.org](mailto:rls600@royallatin.org) to reserve your tickets today  
Make a night of it - preferential accommodation rates available at Whittlebury Park Paddock  
Suites & Whittlebury Hall Hotel - details on request - early booking recommended

**600 Sports Campus**  
Campaign  
Energise • Enjoy • Excel

Registered Charity No. 1060724

## Old Latins

### From the 1940s



Harry Hands (Class of 1940)

#### Harry Hands (Class of 1940)

Earlier this year Old Latin, Harry Hands (Class of 1940) celebrated his 92nd Birthday. On hand to help him were fellow Old Latins – his daughter Carolyn on far left (Head Girl 1968), nephew Robert Munday (Class of 1970), Robert's wife Ruth Newell (Class of 1974) and their daughter Rachel, centre (Class of 2011).

Harry now lives in Sway in the New Forest. Brought up in Bourtonville, Buckingham, he joined the Post Office Engineers in Oxford after leaving the RLS. Harry then trained as a pilot with the RAF in Texas in 1943 before joining the Fleet Air Arm, seeing service in the Korean War flying Seafurys. Harry left the Royal Navy as Lieutenant in 1959 becoming an air traffic controller, before retiring in 1984.

Here's to good health, many more birthdays and the odd glass of malt or two!

### From the 1950s



Leon and Daphne Metcalfe

#### Leon and Daphne Metcalfe (Class of 1957)

Thank you to Leon and Daphne Metcalfe for getting in touch. Leon has recently published his research on how his generation have been affected by World War Two, and out of this research was born a detailed and personal recount of his and Daphne's formative experiences

during their school days at the RLS.

The opening excerpt of these school memoirs follow below (the full version of this manuscript, along with all of the accompanying photographs will be published on the alumni website - [www.rlsalumni.org.uk](http://www.rlsalumni.org.uk)

#### Two Lifetimes in Education

*Those who can, teach. Those who can't, also teach.  
Both get the same salary*

In comparison with our experiences during the 50s, the modern era is way beyond our ken! With an approximate school population of 180-200, over a thousand less than the current number of pupils, everyone knew everyone else and there was a 'big family' air about life at the Latin School. As in all families, there were the positive, sure-footed, 'swim with the current' majority balanced with the few who were more the 'black sheep'!

My wife of 54 years, Daphne, née Lambourne, from Swanbourne, was the third from her family to be a successful pupil at the Latin

School. There was elder brother, Peter, and his younger sister, Barbara, before Daphne thoroughly enjoyed her seven years of maturation in the old building in Chandos Road and finishing (polishing and burnishing) off at Grenville Cottage. My five and a half years found me, unfortunately and very unwillingly, among the 'black sheep' members of the 'family'. This was disappointing, for I revered the place and arrived full of enthusiasm for education, sport and fun within the 'family'!

We both agree that there were some excellent teachers in attendance to willingly and eagerly provide us with the sort of education such an ancient pile deserved in its post-World War era. Much has been written and displayed on the RLS Alumni site extolling the virtues, talents and superb abilities shown by many of our icons of education, not to mention the irascible Serg, our caretaker. Sometimes, as far as I am concerned, the reports can, and do, reach sycophantic levels. I do not mean that statement in a cruel or doubting manner, but more in the way of one person's paragon is another person's persecutor . . .



1955-56 RLS Rugby Team - Leon Metcalfe second from right in front row



Daphne Lambourne  
GIRLS' CHORUS OF BRIDESMAIDS WITH JOHN STOKES.  
RUBDIGORE - 1956.



Pat (left) and Roy (right) oblivious to their connection on a visit to the Discovery Centre last year

#### Pat Smith (née Vicars, Class of 1959) Old Latin and 'Old' teacher reunited thanks to Latin Life

In issue 6 of *Latin Life* Roy Maycock gave an account of his teaching experiences at the Royal Latin School from when he first started teaching there in 1958, mentioning his first year with two A' level students,

## Continued from the 1950s...

*'Two students took on the task of completing the course in just one year, but, at the end of the first term, one left! The one remaining passed with flying colours in 1959.'*

Thank you to Pat Smith (née Vicars) for writing in to let us know that the latter of these students was her! The *Latin Life* team got in touch with Roy to tell him of this, and eventually Roy and Pat were able to arrange a meeting at a local garden centre for what Pat describes as, 'a delightfully reminiscing chat over that year's study' during which it transpired that Roy still retained a complete record of all his students, along with all their successes and achievements.

Pat has since been in touch with Roy again and has suggested that he brings his record book along to her next RLS reunion, where hopefully some other former pupils from her era, including Carole and Ian Munro, his brother and any others reading this will be able to see what records he holds for them.

Reacting to the discovery of Roy's meticulous record keeping, Pat comments,

*'That is dedication beyond belief, but then that reflects the true spirit of so many teachers at the RLS, which I believe has been passed on to so many of us.'*

## From the 1970s

### Classes of 1970 and 1974 return to The RLS



Class of 1970



Class of 1974

On Saturday 11th June, the Classes of 70 and 74 had a 'Grand' Reunion at the Royal Latin. Several months of chasing contacts and planning resulted in an exceptional afternoon and evening with a total of 60 Old Latins and partners between the two year groups. Indeed, those travelling from a distance had made a whole weekend of meeting up with friends again. It was so good to make acquaintances again with those 'names' etched in our memories of the RLS. The Class of 74 have had several reunions, but for the Class of 70 there had been just one – some 25 years ago.

Glynis Wilby (Class of 70) travelled from Germany with Clint Dove (Class of 74) making the very most of his trip from Abu Dhabi. There were Old Latins present still living in the local area, but many had travelled a long way. We were very pleased to see them all. We were also delighted to see some of our teachers, Mr Roy Maycock, Mr Ron Buckingham, accompanied by Mrs Buckingham, Mr Andy Cooper, Mr Roy Walker and Mrs Walker (Miss Bracey). Ed Grimdsdale was unable to join us at the last minute, and was missed especially by the Boy Boarders.

The Class of 74 started with a meeting in Villiers Bar on the Friday evening, at the suggestion of Clint Dove.

Then at 1.30pm on Saturday, we met up for drinks on the roof terraces of the magnificent Discovery Centre, each class on separate roof terraces, with great views over the town and surrounding countryside. Old friendships were restored immediately and thankfully the rain that had been forecast held off.

Both groups then descended to the Community Lab area and to enjoy a buffet lunch accompanied by wine. The Headteacher, David Hudson, warmly welcomed everyone back to the school. Edmund Bullman responded in his own inimitable style before the classes split for tours of school – old and new – and the Archive Room at Rotherfield, led by David Hudson and Jo Ballantine (RLS Director of Development).

It was surprising how much the old school had remained unchanged – in particular, the sports changing rooms. They were just the same, although now old and dated. However, it was a first for most going into the opposite sex's changing room. The new Sports Campus initiative will give much needed improved sports facilities for pupils – hopefully, in the not so distant future.

The groups then completed the other half of their tours before reconvening in the Discovery Centre. More chat, but soon amazingly, four hours had flown by. It was, sadly, time for us to say our goodbyes.

Most grateful thanks go to David and Jo for making us so welcome, giving us their time at a weekend and allowing us to roam around the school buildings. Janet Wilson (Class of 74) kindly donated a copy of the book she had written to the school library.

Class of 70 continued the weekend with an evening meal at Villiers Hotel, Buckingham. The food, drink and company was excellent. Following several anecdotes by those present, Clint Dove (Class of 74) then confessed to an eventful night at the Boarding House when taxis had been ordered hourly to collect the then Head, George Embleton from Brookfield followed by a visit from an Undertaker.

Reluctantly we departed, although those staying at Villiers enjoyed a breakfast together before making their separate ways.

The reunion enabled old friendships to be restored and to visit old and new areas of the school. We all realised what a great time we had back in the 1960s and 70s and what a great privilege it was to have attended the Royal Latin School. The class of '74 have already planned their next reunion for 12 June 2021.

**Reunion organisers, Robert Munday (Class of 70) and Ruth Newell (Class of 74).**



Ilan (centre) receiving his award

**Ilan Tansley (class of 1978)**

We are proud to report that the The Institute of Refrigeration's most prestigious award, the J & E Hall International Gold Medal, was awarded at the Institute's recent 2016 awards to an Old Latin, Ian Tansley – Chief Technical Officer of SureChill Company Limited and sixth-former at RLS from 1976 to 1978.

The award is for an exceptional international contribution to refrigeration and recognises Ian's work to address a real world problem – that of the cooling of vaccines in areas with intermittent or erratic power supplies. His invention operates without the need for a constant power source and avoids the use of costly and unreliable solar rechargeable batteries. The World Health Organisation has approved medical refrigerators using this technology. This water-based cooling technology has the potential to have a major impact on child health worldwide and these systems are already helping to save lives in some of the most difficult environments on earth.

## From the 1980s

**Class of 1982/84 Reunion**



What better way to celebrate your 50th birthday than get all of your classmates back together and head to RLS! We were delighted to welcome back those who left RLS in 1982/84 on 25th June 2016, for a slice of celebratory cake and a tour of the school, before

the real party started elsewhere later that evening. Many thanks to Janet Fletcher for organising everyone, and to Old Latins who travelled from as far afield as the US to be there for the occasion.

**Big birthday looming? Celebrate with a reunion – email [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) to book a date!**

## From the 1990s



Rebecca Davies-Payne

**Rebecca Davies-Payne (Class of 1991)**

Becky Davies-Payne (née Baylis) was at the school between 1985 and 1991, in Barton. After living abroad for six years, she returned to the school in 2014, working part-time as a learning support assistant. Her daughter, Georgia, is currently in year 8 - in the rival house, Verney! Becky has kindly

put pen to paper to remember her school days in poetic fashion:

RLS, RLS, where do I start?

It's a school about which I have much to impart.

An 'Old Latin', I am proud to confirm, if asked

Where my education was spent, back in the past.

The 80s was when I was a pupil at the Latin

When red jumpers were then the school's regulated fashion,

And petitions were required, to gain permission to wear

Over-the-knees socks, rather than the knee-high affair.

Many of my teachers made such an impression,

Their characters and knowledge gave variety to each session,

Sometimes I see them in town and chat,

They look most relaxed - retirement does that!

Mr Grimsdale, whose chemistry lessons were spent

Exclaiming and challenging those who were meant

To be learning, how gases and solutions are mixed,

Not fiddling with Bunsen burners, that then had to be fixed.

Marching along the laboratory floor,

Throwing out reminders about chemistry law,

Clasping a flask in one hand whilst he poured

His crazy concoctions, so that no pupil was bored.

Mr Wright, the gentle, intellectual, English master,

Mr Lesser, who encouraged music scales ever faster,

Herr Walker, whose voice boomed "Guten Morgen" so often

Whilst his wife, Mrs Walker taught maths theories not forgotten.

Miss Williams – the PE ace, whose passion for sport

Gave me tennis skills I use, from the lessons she taught,

And Miss McClintock, whose French accent inspired us all

And many others whose names I can still recall.

The much respected Mr Cooper, was Deputy Head

Before becoming Headteacher, after which, he led

The Latin for some years, as he worked to modify

And alter the school to meet expectations so high.

## Continued from the 1990s...

He left with much sadness, but with such a huge legacy  
Including the outdoor stage, now used so heavily,  
And handled the mantle to our current Headteacher  
Mr Hudson, who since 2010, has been the key keeper.

In my day, Mr Luff was the man in charge,  
Who was frequently seen in his gown, if at large,  
He lived in Brookfield House – and its grounds,  
That way back then, were strictly and entirely out of bounds.

When, after leaving Bucks and living abroad,  
I returned, to visit, older yet still somewhat awed,  
Walking through classrooms and labs in 2011  
Found me looking at pupils, engaged in each session.

The visit was designed to inspire my daughter  
Who, now returning from Dubai, was realising she ought to  
Prepare and focus, for the dreaded 11 plus,  
Along with many other hopefuls residing in Bucks.

My daughter did start in the September of '14,  
Just as excited and happy as her mother had been,  
Filling me in, with details she'd noticed  
The food, the equipment, the teachers - all focused.

She loved the school, right from the start,  
The staff and her friends all playing their part,  
I was delighted to see that although much had changed;  
The spirit and pride at RLS had not waned.

Then suddenly, in October, the Latin was looking  
For Learning Support Assistants, involved in supporting  
Their students, as part of the Learning Support team –  
The qualifications needed, were a match it would seem.

Could I really go back and work at a school  
That I'd attended way back when leg warmers were cool?  
I decided to apply and was thrilled to be invited  
To an assessment designed to select the right candidate.

That first time being back in the classroom was strange,  
The main block, though smarter, had not really changed,  
New whiteboards and tables - no desks to be seen  
But curtains so familiar, though they've since had a clean!

The main block has new window frames, the foyer more modern,  
The library's now moved and the chalkboards forgotten,  
The canteen's hardly touched and the hall is the same  
Except for the stage, now the drama team's domain.

The walls are now painted with colours so modern  
Next to stairs, where students still push and jostle  
Each other, in their attempts to get to their lesson  
Before Sir issues a strike, or worse, a detention.

The punishments have not changed, but what has is the ease  
With which teachers record misdemeanours, as they please,  
With new IT Systems, unthinkable in my day,  
Now relied upon, immediate, essential today.

The main block is still lacking many other mod cons,  
The rooms built for teaching styles now long gone,  
Where teachers often talked whilst students just listened,  
Taking notes by hand in text books, school-issued.

The portacabins have gone, the 'temporary classroom'  
That housed many students, tucked away in the gloom  
Of the trees, next to Rotherfield, out of the way  
Now replaced by the New Block – more appropriate for today.

The Discovery Centre – what a wonderful achievement,  
Where the community can come, on a basis most frequent,  
To share in the Science team's cutting edge laboratories  
And ogle at the extensive, unusual inventories.

Chris George is sadly leaving, having realised his ambition  
Of creating a space to host science exhibitions,  
But luckily for us, that energy of his  
Will still be apparent as a parent hosting the Quiz.

The 6th Form has access to cappuccinos and lattes,  
Not just plain water or juice, like in the old days  
When Rotherfield was thrilled, to convert an old area  
To the height of sophistication – a real lecture theatre!

Yet today, this lovely house is creaking and groaning,  
It has seen many students laughing and moaning  
At the heat and the cold, as it struggles to maintain  
A comfortable space to inspire students of today.

This much-loved, old building will be delighted to hear  
That government funding, provided later this year  
Will go some way towards, creating the vision  
David Hudson has held, since taking on this mission.

This ancient, old school that has provided so much,  
Needs the Old Latins, who fondly stay in touch  
To fundraise, to consult, to encourage and praise  
To ensure the school stays exceptional, in the next phase.

What also hasn't changed is the sense of achievement,  
Of pride and passion, of tangible commitment  
By staff, to develop an education each year  
That prepares their students, for their chosen career.

The Latin's reputation has remained outstanding,  
All credit to the staff, the reduced funding notwithstanding,  
It remains a school we can be proud of today  
When you reach it, at the end of the Brookfield driveway.

'High Expectations For All' is the RLS dictum  
Decided upon, some years ago now, with wisdom,  
It's the goal that the leadership team follow each day  
And the staff and pupils strive towards, still, today.

## From the 2000s



Maddie wearing her football medal

### Maddie Hooper (Class of 2008)

Maddie Hooper, a biochemistry student in her first year at Oxford, gained the significant achievement of a Blue in her first year. Playing in a team that was comprised of second and third year students, Maddie showed her exceptional qualities by playing in the Varsity football match (against Cambridge).

Maddie, who achieved excellent A' level grades, while representing the school at a number of sports,

shows that academic success and sporting excellent do belong together. She epitomises all the qualities that our exceptionally gifted Latins exhibit both in the past and in the present day. We are sure that whether it be in the field of academia or in the sporting arena, Maddie will continue to make great strides and be a role model for Latins of today and of the future.



Maddie (second from left) receiving her Best Newcomer college award for football

## Head Boys and Girls' Board

The new Head Boys and Girls board, on display in the main hall of RLS, continues to challenge the memories of Old Latins.

The latest contributions and corrections, for which we are very grateful are:

- Christopher Hughes 1966 (Paul Savage was also suggested previously for this year!)
- Jennifer Bowerman 1966
- 1981 – Mike Jones has clarified that there was no head boy for 1981

We will endeavour to update the board for the new academic year.

## Rotherfield Sixth-Form Centre



We are delighted to announce that we have successfully bid for a grant of £1million to refurbish Rotherfield House.

The funding will pay for rewiring, new heating and plumbing, re-roofing and remodelling the interior in order to make the building watertight, warm, bright and fit for the purpose of sixth-

form study in the 21st century. We are in the process of seeking planning permission to carry out the improvements, and look forward to bringing you more news in the next issue of Latin Life.

Securing this funding for the sixth-form centre renovation allows us now to focus our fundraising efforts on the radical update and expansion of our sporting facilities.

## Archive Website



Following the issues with the archive website, we can now report that the posts at [www.rlsalumni.org.uk](http://www.rlsalumni.org.uk) have been reinstated, but that there is much more work to do to add the associated images back onto the site.

Rest assured we are still working out how to do this – if anyone would like to volunteer some time to help with the task then that would be much appreciated! We would love to one day have a fully digitised archive so that all of our photos and documents can be accessed, but this is sadly a costly process and therefore not something we can contemplate doing unless we can identify appropriate funding.

We have created a dedicated Alumni page on the [www.royallatin.org](http://www.royallatin.org) website, where we regularly list details of events and other notices for Old Latins, so please do visit that page.



# Get in Touch!

Editor: Lucy Beckett

Call: 01280 827306, e-mail: [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)

The Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX

## Calling the Class of 1991...

There will be a 25th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1991 (or 1989 for GCSEs) happening on Saturday 15th October at 2pm, at RLS.

The event will start with a tour of the school and then the celebrations will continue on in Buckingham, venue TBD.

Contact Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) for further details.



## NEW RLS Alumni Facebook Page

For news about forthcoming alumni events and reunions as well as regular nostalgic glimpses into the archive, you can now find a dedicated RLS Alumni page on Facebook.

Even if you don't have a Facebook account, you can just search online for **RLS Alumni Facebook**, and you should find the right link. Using free social media accounts is the most straightforward and cost effective way for us to create an alumni community that you can access from anywhere in the world. Please look for it, like it and share it with classmates or groups - thank you!

## Planning a reunion?

We would love to welcome you back to RLS, whether you left last year or fifty years ago!

Please get in touch and we can help you to organise your get together. All it takes is someone to get the ball rolling - so why not you?! We are more than happy to open up the school for you and host your reunion one weekend - so start planning!

## It's Your *Latin Life*

The vision for *Latin Life* is that it should be produced by Old Latins, for Old Latins.

But to realise this vision we really do need feedback, so we would like to invite all Old Latins to

submit articles and images to the magazine (subject to editing).

Please get in touch to share articles or let us know what you would like to see included in *Latin Life*. We'd particularly like to be able to share some of

your success stories – whether relating to career, family, leisure, travel or voluntary work – with other Old Latins, so get your thinking caps on and email [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) with your contributions!

### Latin Life Sponsors:

We would love to hear from anyone who might be able to help us with the design and printing of Latin Life, or who might be willing to sponsor Latin Life on an annual or edition by edition basis – please do get in touch for an informal chat with Jo!

[jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)

### Latin Life via Email



If you haven't already, please, please, please send us your email address!

We are trying to reduce costs as much as possible so please help us by contacting [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) with your email address and electing to receive Latin Life via email.

