"High Expectations for All"

Welcome to our second edition of Latin Life



The Royal Latin School - Latin Life | Winter 2012 Issue 2

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The current students continue to maintain the wonderful traditions of the school, both in and out of the classroom – our GCSE results were our best ever (with 75% A*/A grades), whilst sport is thriving for boys and girls, and the productions of *Sweeney Todd and As You Like It* were memorable. I have also been particularly pleased

to see our Sixth Formers assume an increasingly



prominent leadership role, setting high standards for the lower years to follow.

Having been Headteacher for two years now, I am beginning to get to know a

wider circle of students past and present. It was very enjoyable to meet so many Old Latins at the summer Ball and Garden Party to mark Andy Cooper's retirement. I very much hope that I will see many more of you in the months and years ahead. The school has wonderful traditions and outstanding students and staff. I consider myself a lucky man to lead it.

avid Hudson



David Hudson, Headteacher

RLS Living Memory Archive Gets Underway



The National Lottery[®] through the Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded the Royal Latin School a grant of almost £25,000 to help us establish our Living Memory Archive Project. The funding will enable Old Latins to work alongside current students in order to create an archive documenting its long history, as part of the build-up to our 600th anniversary in 2023.

The lottery funding has enabled work to be carried out over the summer to renovate a room in Rotherfield House, which will become the home for the archive. Displays detailing the history of the school along with stories of some of its pupils will be accessible to the public upon its completion.

Commenting on the award, David Hudson, Headteacher at The Royal Latin School said: 'We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled this project to get off the ground. As one of the oldest schools in Buckinghamshire, the school is historically significant and we are making



some fascinating discoveries amongst the boxes of archive material. We are recording oral histories with former pupils, and would like to invite anyone who attended the Royal Latin School or anyone who has any memorabilia relating to the school to get in touch with us.' The funding will also contribute to the cost of producing the next three editions of Latin Life, in order to continue to inform you all about the progress of the project and how you can get involved.

The Archive Room underlines our commitment to creating an active Alumni network and to providing opportunities for Old Latins to share their memories, skills and experiences with existing students. Old Latins have an important role to play in helping young people to recognise that wherever their life takes them, they can have a lifelong relationship with their school and their local heritage.

If you want to get involved or have any photographs or memorabilia you would like to contribute to the archive, please contact Andy Cooper by emailing acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

Old Latins' Archive Project

Following the act of Remembrance in school on Thursday 10th November a group of Old Latins met in the new archive rooms in Rotherfield to plan the organisation of archive documents and set up projects for particular research.

Tony Barr has already undertaken considerable research into the school as has Janet Heady (nee Butler, 1942 - 1950 and Head Girl 1949-1950). Geoff Kirk (1946 – 1952) who lives locally in a house named Denton on London Road and Ron Herring (1946 - 1952), have considerable contacts with local historians and archive material. Roger Wagland (1949 – 1956) whose family home was Rotherfield will be helping a group of 6th formers to produce a study on Rotherfield House.

This picture of the Old Latins is taken in front of the Honours Boards which date from 1909 – 1960. The boards are being renovated and will be placed at the back of the main school hall in due course. New boards are also being commissioned to list the names of Head Boys and Head Girls from post war to present day -Janet Heady is undertaking research into this list.

The new archive facilities are nearly completed and Old Latins are encouraged to come into school to use the archive, add to it and work with students in the archive group. The archive facilities are open all day on Tuesdays and at other times upon request.

To The Labs...and Beyond

'It hasn't changed one bit!' and 'It's exactly how I remember it' are common reactions from visiting Old Latins when they look around the RLS Science building. Nostalgic, perhaps – but we're painfully aware that current students aren't getting to experience the kind of 21st century science education that their peers at other schools are getting.

RLS is currently working on ambitious plans to build a Science & Technology Centre and is keen to hear from any former students of the school who have pursued a career in the fields of Science and Technology. "The labs are very tired now, and we simply don't have enough of them" said Jo Ballantine, RLS Director of Development. "The lack of statutory funding isn't justification for putting up with inadequate facilities any longer - our students deserve better, and we owe it to them and those who will follow them to do our utmost to improve things."

Statements of support from Old Latins will be invaluable to the school as it speaks to potential donors and investors about this exciting project. "Being able to demonstrate that this is a school with a long history of delivering a first class science and technology



The students are working on projects which include: "The History of the Boarding Houses"; "Dress and Uniform of RLS over the last hundred years; RLS through the War Years "School Drama Productions"; "Site and Environmental developments" - especially

the current Latin School site from 1963 to present and "Sport at RLS".

We are able to scan documents and photos and hope that Old Latins will visit the archive and lend or donate documents for this resource. There will be some permanent displays, eg uniform and the students will be producing DVDs of archived material, especially covering the period 1945 to present day.

Carmen Austin, Head Girl 2006, currently working at Buckingham University will be helping with research into RLS in the 21st Century.



adequate for the future of RLS stude

education - in spite of rather than because of the facilities - will help us to argue the case that with better facilities, the sky really is the limit for our students. In fact, we have recently discovered no fewer than three Old Latins currently working on European Space Agency missions - so perhaps the sky is just the beginning!"

If you would like to know more about the RLS Science & Technology plans or feel you might be able to add some value to our campaign, please contact Jo by emailing jballantine@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk



25 Years Since We Left – or Thereabouts!

RLS was delighted to welcome back the 'Class of '87 – and others from the mid eighties' for an informal reunion on a Saturday afternoon in June. The group enjoyed meeting up with old friends and spent a happy afternoon exploring the school with Andy Cooper and Jo Ballantine.

The group had such amusing and clear memories of their days at RLS. The visit to the science rooms, particularly S4 with its stuffed animals was like a time warp for these Old Latins who were incredulous that "nothing has changed" and they were transported back to their lessons in the 1980s. During the tour Andy Cooper also took them into the Old Gym, which was set out for public examinations, suddenly these Old Latins, especially Dom Whyte, became paler and more anxious as the memories became all too vivid - they were glad to escape back into the sun and the school fields beyond!



Infact many memories of school days were recalled and relived, amidst much laughter, before a meal and drinks in town.

Special thanks to Dominic Whyte for organising the reunion and encouraging people to attend – a great time was had by all. Don't leave it so long next time!

Fancy Meeting Up with Your Classmates?

If you'd like to organise a reunion for your year group or even a handful of friends, please get in touch. It needn't be an onerous task – the school can help you to make arrangements and may even be able to help you track down any missing classmates. If you are already planning a reunion, do let us know – we'd be very happy to open up the school for you and show you around, or to host your reunion from start to finish.

Please contact Andy Cooper by emailing acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

Current Head Boy, (Ben Lewis) and Head Girl, (Natasha Stotesbury) talk about their year in post

We are extremely proud to have been chosen as Head Boy and Girl. It's a real honour to represent the school and we both enjoy taking on the responsibility. We believe that it's so important to represent the students' voice in order to improve our school.

Since Easter, we have been working with the student leadership team and have already made some significant differences. We began by implementing a house charity system whereby each House is responsible for promoting a charity by running events throughout the year. We are really pleased to be involved with such a range of worthwhile causes, from Children in Need to Macmillan. In addition, we have changed the way that year 12 prefects are chosen and have also tried to give them more responsibility, by creating eight groups responsible for different aspects of our school community.

Catherine Hawkins' charity group has already been instrumental in organising a very successful Halloween event and has more plans for Christmas. Dan Ingle's Community Group are currently rehearsing a Christmas pantomime for Stocklake Park School and are working hard to collect and deliver all the presents bought by our pupils for their students. We are really pleased with just how much all these groups have already achieved and are sure they will continue to do so.

As the Student Voice is so important to us and the school, we are really focussing on making sure every pupil's voice is heard through



Natasha is studying History, Maths and Economics, whilst Ben is studying History, English and German at A Level. Both Natasha and Ben are currently applying to Oxbridge.

a system of form representatives and House Captains. With so many students we have a lot of great ideas that deserve to be implemented. Currently we are working on a range of ideas from improving Rotherfield (the 6th form building) to changing the House Point System. We are thoroughly enjoying our time as Head Girl and Boy.

How many Head Boys / Head Girls can you remember from your time at RLS? Email your answers to acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

Remembrance Service



Poem By Jenny Bell

The dead did not die in vain, If we, the living, say their name, It we swear to always tell, Of how they lived and how they fell.

The dead did not die in vain, If we, the living, see their pain, If we swear to always see, Their courage and their bravery.

The dead did not die in vain, And from their memory we gain A bridge to our past; Within our thoughts they everlast.



Left to Right James Close-Smith 11D, Harry Kearney (1999-2007), Aiden Easton 11R and Ibrahim Sheikh $9\mathrm{V}$

We were delighted to welcome guests from the British Armed Forces, Royal British Legion and local community to our Act of Remembrance on Thursday 10th November.

It was a delight that so many could attend including military personnel from RAF Halton and two Old Latins who are currently serving in the Army (Harry Kearney) and Royal Navy (Ben Potts). Before the service guests were greeted by a guard of honour formed by pupils who are cadets in various sections of the Armed Forces.

The service was a mixture of the best of the past services created by Mr Cooper and a few new additions. Miss Breene read a passage about the modern day soldier, Jenny Bell read a poem she had written and read at the sixth form visit to the 1st World War battlefields last summer.

Our pupils were outstanding in their respect for those attending and for the occasion. A live video-link through to the canteen was a technological introduction to ensure that those who could not see the stage felt involved. Poppies were worn with pride and our guests commented on how welcomed they felt by the Headteacher, staff and pupils.

Head Boy and Head Girl Ben Lewis and Natasha Stotesbury laid wreaths on the commemoration plaques in the school foyer. Mrs Baldock read the names of those Latins who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and the school and guests observed a minute's silence in their honour.

We would like to thank Rustin Nourshargh, (Upper Sixth) for his many years of playing the Last Post and Reveille. It was a very moving service for our students, staff and guests.

Do you know any Old Latins serving in the armed forces? Please let Andy Cooper know, (email acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk) - we would love to invite them to our Act of Remembrance in 2012.



Andrew Cooper's Retirement Events

Andy's retirement was the opportunity for so many Old Latins to come back to RLS and re-establish friendships and links with so many students and staff - including Andy's first form of 1971. There were boarders from Brookfield and Rotherfield, students remembering ski holidays and of course students remembering their school years at RLS.

The Ball was a lavish event hosted by the FRLS in Andy Cooper's honour. Dinner and dancing was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present and needless to say Old Latin memories became more amusing and colourful as the evening unfolded. A superb menu was created and prepared by lan Howson, a parent and professional chef, and served by immaculately dressed sixth form waiters and waitresses.

The "Red Bullets", led by Peter Edwards provided great music and the dance floor was full throughout the evening. Joe Cooper, the youngest son of Andy and Sally, spoke amusingly and movingly about 'dad' and David Hudson, Headteacher, thanked the FRLS for the wonderful organisation of the event and for all those attending. A memorable occasion enjoyed by all.



At the Garden Party 2000 people enjoyed a lovely afternoon, including our oldest Latin Ivy Gregory (nee Bendell Class of 1934). Entertainment was provided by old and current Latins. These included James Bisp (Class of 2002) now a professional actor who performs regularly in the West End and Peter Yelding (Class of 2008) who is presently studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire and Peter Edwards (Class of 2000). More recent students included the Calver family, Anna Czornyj, The Rawlins family, Simran Khabra, Guy Dury & Co and Letty & Snake Davis.



Andy also entertained those who attended with stories on life at RLS since he joined in 1971.



Andy and his family left the Garden Party as only a retiring Deputy Head could – on an old school bus!

A Church concert took place on Wednesday 18th July 2011 at St Peter & St Paul, Buckingham Parish Church. The Readings of "My Early Life" by Winston Churchill, a passage from "Bird Song" by Sebastian Faulks and "Sunset" the prayer of Revd. Eli Jenkins from Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood" were chosen by Andy and were read by students and staff past and present.



The music Andy chose included Prelude: Spectacularly Spanish played by David Clifford, Adam Hitchen (guitars); Tumpet Voluntary - Jeremiah Clarke played by Rustin Nourshargh; Vivaldi's A Major Concerto played by William Gough (Bassoon) and Martin Gough

(Piano); *Debussy's Syrinx*, played by Vanessa Walters (flute); *For Good* by Stephen Schwartz, sung by Charlie, Lucy, Polly and Seb Calver; *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong, sung by Gemma Beck; *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter, Words by F S Pierpoint sung by the Choir and the Postlude *When I'm Sixty Four*, by Lennon and McCartney sung by the Choir and all those present!

Liam Dunne op (RLS 1980s) from the Convent des Dominicains in Marseilles came back and gave an appreciation of Andy Cooper's contribution to the school.

"...And on a purely personal level, thank you for your encouragement of the ideas, the intuitions and the aspirations of this particular pupil, one amongst thousands - earnest and intense as he was, looking for rhyme and reason and sometimes needing reassurance. I learnt much from your lessons but have continued to receive much more from your kindnesses during and after my time at the Latin School."

Please look at the RLS Alumni website (www.rlsalumni.org.uk) to read Liam's full address.

Review: RLS As You Like It



The RLS *As You Like* It was a production that possibly surpasses all others. It was an enchanting show, bringing together the worlds of the menacing, corrupt court and the beautiful, mystical Forest of Arden.

The actors delivered their lines, executed their parts and mastered the Shakespearean language expertly. The fragile relationships seen during the court scenes were fast-paced and exciting and the realistic fight scene captivated the audience. This dramatically contrasted with the forest, the opening of which was a magical moment – delicate tissue paper flowers were lit up by fairy lights, while the dancing animals unveiled the river and bridge in a spellbinding display. The accompanying music and inserted songs complemented the magic.

The performance was enhanced by hilarious sexual innuendos and was thoroughly entertaining. One of the funniest parts was the scene between the tactile (and always hilarious) Touchstone, (Antoni Fruncillo), and all-too willing (and excellent) Audrey, (Rachael Sparkes), whose comical relationship delighted the audience. The height of comedic confusion was possibly the scene in which Silvius (Judd Launder), Phoebe (Lauren Grant-St James) and Rosalind / Ganymede (Rosanna Mills) enacted the romantic pursuit in a liberal chase scene. The use of space and delivery of lines was particularly skilful in such a fast-paced scene. Abbie Sinclair produced a particularly strong melancholy Jacques. She connected perfectly with the part and gave a thoroughly enjoyable and commendable performance. Mention must also be made of a born Shakespearean actor - Timi Oyekanmi - who played courtier, singer and wounded deer. We'll see him in the future on a Stratford stage! Beth Rigby (Celia) seemed to possess instinctive dramatic awareness and beautiful balance - enchanting! Oliver (Ben Ettaoussi) was suitably evil and Byronic. Special mention must also be made of the excellent Dukes: Alex Westbrook, Dan and Sam Ingle.

The ending was the height of the wonderful romance between a brilliant and handsome Orlando (leuan Coombs) and mesmerising

Rosalind – the final scene held the audience as the lovers embraced in a long-awaited kiss, enhanced by silhouette and romantic music.

The acting, music, lighting, set, stage management all came together to give us a magical, captivating and awesome production. Thank you so much, everyone.

(Review by 6th form students Tasha Beedell, Hana Sparkes, Madeleine Lewis, Emma Bagshaw, Vanessa Walters).

Were you involved in any productions at RLS? Please send your memories and pictures if you have any to latinlife@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk or Jo Ballantine, Director of Development, Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX.

Inaugural Rugby County Cup U13 and U14 Champions

Congratulations to the U13 and U14 Royal Latin rugby teams who at the end of last term won the inaugural Rugby County Cups. Schools across the County took part in the competition.

The U13's had a great cup run which included beating Aylesbury Grammar School in the semi-final 33-26. They met The Beacon School in the final held at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, where they won a hard fought match 31-15.



Under 14 rugby team celebrate cup w

The U14's showed their strength in the competition brushing aside all teams including Aylesbury Grammar in the semi-final 39-7. In the final they met another of the Bucks Grammar schools, Sir William Borlase. The strength of the forwards and speed out wide was soon obvious and although RLS allowed SWB back into the game a couple of times with a slight loss of concentration, the match result was a comprehensive 32-12 win to Royal Latin.

These results bode well for next year when the boys enter the National Daily Mail Schools Competition and further into the future when the year groups join together at the senior end of the school.



From 1930s



Ivy Gregory (nee Bendell) (Class of 1934) one of our oldest Latins, visited once again on our Remembrance Day – it is always lovely to welcome her back to RLS

From 1970s

Dorothy Tinsley (nee King), Senior Mistress in the 1970s is now married and a curate in the Church of England.

Suzanne White (nee Fidldler), a Rotherfield boarder in the '70s, has recently moved from Canmore Alberta to Calgary in Canada. She is in contact with Andrew Cooper and is visiting England August 2012.

From 1980s

Peter Luff, (Headmaster at RLS 1979 – 1992) and his wife, Gay are well and living close to Oxford enjoying their retirement. Many students will remember their children Alison, now living in the North of England with her family and John living in the Channel Islands.

Rachel Briggs (1980s) is another old Latin living in Canada. Rachel is living to the South of Calgary in Okotops with her husband and family and was recently on a visit to Buckingham.

Navaz Chichger (1980s) was married in London on 26th November 2011 to Najib Sheeka. Andrew and Sally Cooper were invited to the celebrations at the Zoroastrian Centre in London.

George Fisher (1980s); many students will remember George as an outstanding Physicist and Oxford Blue who left RLS to become Headmaster of King Edward VI school in Solihull. George has recently retired.

Havovi Chichger (1980s) now Dr Chichger is a research scientist at Brown University, USA

To appear on this page in the next edition, please email latinlife@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

From 2000s

Diane Reading (Class 2001) is now working as a qualified solicitor.

James Bisp (Class of 2002) is enjoying a successful career on the stage and TV. He has recently been appearing on tour in Scrooge with Tommy Steel.

Lyndsey Kearney (Class of 2003) has recently secured a position at ITV as a Researcher on Day Break & Lorraine

Ben Ogden (Class of 2003) - after completing his degree at Oxford and travels abroad, he has entered the legal profession.

Harry Kearney (left at the end of Year 11 in 2003) and then joined the British Army where he is currently serving as a Lance Corporal with the Royal Engineers. Overseas tours have included construction of Camp Bastion, Afghanistan; Engineering maintenance in the Falklands; Close support to the Infantry in Iraq; Assisting in the construction of a NATO stronghold in Oman in 2009 and engineering work on Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Caroline Day (History Teacher, left in 2003) - many students will remember Caroline with great affection from her time as Deputy Head of Key Stage 4 and Teacher of History. She is now married with a young family and returning to teaching.



Philippa Hollins (Class of 2005), attended Leeds University to study Biomedical Science before joining The British Army. Philippa graduated from Sandhurst Military Academy and is now serving as a 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Logistics Corps.

Carmen Austin, Head Girl in 2006 is now working at the University of Buckingham.

Kavita Dave (Class of 2004) has qualified as a Doctor in 2010 and is now working at Southend Hospital.

Richard Dachtler (Class of 2004) qualified as a Doctor 2009.

Emily Baker (Class of 2006) studied Chemistry at Bristol, graduated 2009 and is now doing PhD at Bristol.

Emily Sergeant (Class of 2007) qualified as a Nurse in Manchester this year.

Rachel Taylor (Class of 2008) read Theology at Oxford and is now married with a young family and living in Seattle, USA.

Simon Bushell (Class of 2009) is currently studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge. He is also the Secretary for the Oxbridge Ski Club, planning a visit of thousands of current and past students to the French Alps in January 2012 – beware!



Get in Touch!

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Been There, Got the T-shirt!

After numerous enquiries about purchasing Old Latins ties, scarves and other memorabilia, we are exploring the possibility of offering Old Latins a range of good quality items to buy, at reasonable prices. Watch this space for further details - and if you are yearning after something in particular, maybe a calendar of RLS through the seasons or an engraved tankard for a family member or friend, please email Lorraine Hayhurst-France, the school Business Manager at

Ihfrance@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk and we'll see if we can include it in our range.

Private Visits

If you would prefer to visit the school on your own or with a family or friends, we completely understand. Please contact oldlatins@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk and we'll be happy to put your visit in the diary.

We hope to see you soon!

Been There, Reunion Diary

2012: Class of 1987 25th Anniversary Reunion

Summer 2012: Class of 1992 20th Anniversary Reunion

2013: Class of 1973 40th Anniversary Reunion

Summer 2013: Class of 1988 25th Anniversary Reunion

Please email Andy Cooper if you would like any information about these reunions acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

Upcoming Events

Elizabeth Finnegan (nee Walker) daughter of Roy Walker German teacher and Margaret Walker Maths teacher is beginning to plan a 25 year reunion for students of (Class of 88) in the summer of 2013. Liz now lives in the USA, but students from that year wanting information, please email Andrew Cooper, acooper@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk

Opening of the Archive Project Centre in Rotherfield. This is scheduled for May 2012 - final date still to be confirmed and communicated. The afternoon will be a reunion for Old Latins, with a reception and the Archive Room will be open for viewing and reflections. All Old Latins are welcome to visit us on that day. **Please monitor the school website for confirmation of the date.**

Tell Us Where You Are!

Email latinlife@royallatin.bucks.sch.uk with your preferred contact details. We will not share your data with anyone without your permission.

It's Your Latin Life

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

We'd really welcome some feedback on this edition, and 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!











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Join the Royal Latin Grammar Alumni group on www.linkedin.com to network with Old Latins in business and find out how RLS is working with the business community.

You can join The Royal Latin School Group on www.friendsreunited.co.uk and browse the 3,665 Old Latins who are already members.