

"High Expectations for All"



The Royal Latin School - Latin Life | Summer 2014 Issue 5

www.rlsalumni.org.uk

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Welcome to our fifth edition of Latin Life

I have been teaching a brief history of the school to all of our Year 8s (12-13 year olds) this year. In a short (6 week) unit we try to cover the main turning points and investigate some of the key personalities contributing so significantly to our school.

I have received some excellent support from Old Latins of varying vintages (Roger Wagland, Ruth Newell, Simon Tearle and Dean Jones to name a few!) and this oral history has really brought the school to life for the current generation.

What has struck us most are the twin drivers of history – change and continuity – and you will see from this edition that these themes remain true to life at the Latin today. Most obviously, of course, change comes in the form of the 600 Campaign which goes from strength to strength - the Discovery Centre has, literally, taken shape, whilst we are now planning Phase 2 and a major refurbishment of Rotherfield. As a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) we are now also able to offer our own teacher training courses and bring on the next generation of teachers. Some of the old certainties of Latin life, however, remain – Founders' Day and Sports Day have just taken place, much as they have done for decades.

As ever, you are very welcome indeed to join the increasing number of Old Latins who return to visit us – it is always a genuine pleasure to see you at what is, after all, your school.



) avid Hudson David Hudson, Headteacher



By kind permission of Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough

The RLS 600 Campaign warmly invites you to

An Evening of Gold & Glitter at Blenheim Palace

On Thursday 4th December 2014 from 7pm-midnight

In aid of the Discovery Centre at The Royal Latin School

∞ Drinks Reception in The Colonnades ∞ ∞ Dinner by Searcys in The Orangery ∞ Auction with Special Guest The Rt Hon John Bercow MP ∞ ∞ Raffle ∞ Silent Auction ∞ Gift Tree ∞

> Individual Tickets £95 ∞ Tables of 10 available Corporate sponsorship packages also available

We look forward to sharing this special evening with you and your guests. An early expression of interest is strongly recommended; please email jballantine@royallatin.org to reserve your places and enquire about availability of sponsorship packages.

Significant centenary anniversary

This year marks a double significant anniversary, the centenary of the outbreak of War in August 1914 and the 70th anniversary of D Day 6th June 1944.

We are aware of these momentous events on the national and international scene but it is difficult at times to comprehend how the villages and towns of England carried on life against these great events. What of Buckingham during these times? And more particularly what of RLS, its pupils and staff?

June 24th 1914

Founders' Day and Sports Day. Calm before the Storm. The Diary of William Fuller, Headmaster 1908-1931 has this entry;

"The pupils of the Vicar's class, at his invitation, attended a corporate communion service at the Parish Church... The Annual Sports day was held at the cricket field (on Bourton Road). A beautifully fine afternoon brought together a large crowd"

July 16th 1914

The Baroness Kinloss entertained the staff and pupils at Stowe today. (At this time Stowe was a private House before it became a school in the 1920s). A most enjoyable time was spent fishing and punting. Tea was served in the Colonnade. Excursions and rambles were resumed till 7:30pm when the pupils assembled on the North Front to cheer her Ladyship...."

Sept 17th 1914

"School reopened today with a list of 108 pupils.... The terrible outbreak of War with Germany and Austria, which occurred early in August, saddened everyone during the holidays"

October 1914

Mr Fuller proposed a scheme of supporting a Belgian Refugee

boy to come to the school. After various events £25-1-5p was raised.

Nov 3rd 1914

(The railway station was at the end of Chandos Road). "The station master complained of the conduct of the boys in getting out of moving carriages and of the girls standing on the seats of the waiting room. Warned the pupils!"

Dec 19th 1914

"This has been an anxious term... on the whole the most worrying term I have experienced" In the following 4 years of War Mr Fuller was to receive news of the deaths of many Old Latins killed in action. These are the names inscribed on our Memorials that we remember each year at our Remembrance Service.

At the outbreak of the Second World War

H.B. Toft was the Headmaster,

appointed in 1939. Toft was an International Rugby player, a great hooker, who captained England at Twickenham on a number of occasions. Though he was beyond the age of conscription, he nevertheless enlisted, and joined the Army. Donald E Morgan and Charles Foster were Headteachers in Toft's absence until he returned after the war in 1945.

The year 1944 records the deaths in action of a number of Old Latins.

Arthur Bull of Winslow whose aircraft failed to return from a mission on Jan 18th 1944, attacking military targets in Ancona Italy. He was 33.

Alfred Cox of Winslow.

Glider Pilot. The Dakota he was flying in, crashed en-route to India killing all crew and passengers. 5th December 1944. He was 21.

Anthony Leahy of Adstock.

His Lancaster aircraft was intercepted by a night- fighter en-route to Frankfurt, March 22nd 1944. Five of the crew died, including Anthony Leahy; 3 became prisoners of war having managed to bail out. He was 34.

Bruce Lucas of Dadford.

A pilot who for 14 months patrolled the Irish Sea before being sent to Burma. He died when his Vengeance aircraft crashed into high ground in India. He was a very good cricketer and soccer player. He was 22 when he died July 19th 1944.

Charles Wigley 24th June

1944. He was a prisoner of war on the Tamahoku when it was sunk by the US submarine Tang, 40 miles south of Nagasaki. 560 service men were lost, only 212 were saved.

Miss Atkin ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL.

SPECIAL REPORT.

| Name WHITING, Pete | r Form 1V | Date of Birth 23.12.1929 |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Progress: Should have Auphored | e been better if he has the him to possess. | ability which we have |
| Reliability: | able it it must not own pro | equina no vere. |
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| makes from | at times. | ulle A www. |
| 596/6/15 | Date: 22 | 1. Mov. 1944 |

And what of pupils in school during 1944? The extract from a report on Whiting Peter will make you smile, whether you are teacher or pupil.

Canadian Visitors

Eira Martin (née Hilliam) RLS Sept 1956-July 1963 recently visited RLS with her husband Ray, whilst over in England staying with Jenny Green (née Ridgway) and husband Geoff, themselves Old Latins.

Eira recalled that she was the only girl in her exam year opting for Sciences, and that this was only after her father had been in to persuade the Headmaster GK Embleton that she should be allowed to do so. There have been many changes since the early 1960s, but today every girl and boy at RLS studies all three sciences to GCSE and the numbers opting for each of the A Level Sciences is generally over 80 per subject.

Eira went on to win the Holton Chemistry Prize and the Durrant Biology Prize during her sixth form studies at RLS. After graduating at West Ham College of Technology in Science, where she met her husband Ray, she was later to move to Canada.

Eira remembers very vividly coming into the new RLS building in Sept 1962, and the first boy boarders arriving in the half term of that year. It was in the following summer that she met the Queen Mother, when the building was officially opened in June 1963. But this was not the only time Eira was to meet the Queen Mother.

When Eira was at West Ham College, then part of London University, she was chosen as a representative of her college to join other students at a formal dinner attended by the Queen Mother. At that dinner the Queen Mother remembered Eira, saying that her name was distinctive and wasn't she the science student from the RLS in Buckingham?

One of Eira's other contemporaries at RLS was **Wendy Credland**, librarian at RLS for many years, who still lives in Buckingham.



Picture of Queen Mother when she opened RLS on the Brookfield site in June 1963. George Embleton, Headmaster at the time and Eira seated to the fore of the picture.

Archive Open Day Thursday 1st May 2014 2pm-5pm

It was a really enjoyable day, with over 70 Old Latins assembling in a packed Archive Room and later in the afternoon in the Rotherfield Lecture Theatre.

Especially pleasing were the 'new' Old Latins coming to the Archive Day for the first time, including Modge Hall, Brian (Charlie) Townsend and John Butler to name but three.



Old Latins were very helpful in adding to and correcting the list of Head Boys and Girls from 1945 – present day. Please look on the alumni website www. rlsalumni.org. uk to see our current list and help us to fill in the missing names! The Board of Head Boys and Girls is to be mounted in the main school hall along with the Honours Boards of students who won University places between 1913-1954.



After cream teas in the Lecture Theatre three members of the Upper Sixth who, along with 30 other Sixth Formers, visited Ypres and the Somme last summer gave a deeply moving and articulate account of their experiences and feelings. Judd Launder, Ellie Reynolds and Mia Fewing spoke so powerfully and simply that at least one Old Latin was moved to tears.

There were only tears of laughter when the second speaker of the afternoon, Ed Grimsdale, began his address entitled 'Three Heads are better than One'. His recollections of GKE, Peter Luff and Cecilia Galloway were humorous and gently affectionate. The audience, mostly pupils of GKE, enjoyed every minute. But who did introduce rugby to RLS? EG says GKE – Modge Hall says Bert Toft.

Later in the afternoon some Old Latins visited Grenville School to tour their old school site which added to the very enjoyable day but, most of all, Old Latins enjoyed each other's company and being reminded through the Archive of their RLS careers.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the school staff and pupils who made the day so successful.

Andy Cooper

Almost there... Discovery Centre Construction Under Way



Good news! We're delighted to share that construction of the long awaited new science and technology department at RLS has commenced and is on schedule.

A formal ground breaking ceremony was held on a stormy morning in February. Sir Stuart Hampson, then High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire and former Chairman of John Lewis, braved the elements with two of our youngest students to put the first spade in the ground.

Working closely with Universities and employers, the Discovery Centre promises to be flagship facility with twelve laboratories and lots of flexible study space, bringing immediate benefit to every student at RLS when it opens on schedule in the Spring.

In just two years, £4.7 million has been secured from central and local government, from companies, trusts, Old Latins, parents and friends. 'This is a huge achievement, and is testament to the warm regard in which people hold RLS, as well as the clear and urgent need that the school has to update facilities' said David Hudson. 'However, the imminent completion puts us under pressure to complete the fundraising and ensure that the building is fit for purpose, furnished and equipped to deliver on its promise.'

'We are so close now' said Jo Ballantine, RLS Director of Development. 'We've been fortunate to have attracted support from a wide range of people who don't know us, but who have taken time to listen to the Royal Latin story and felt compelled to act - but we can't rely on getting any more big donations from outside of the school now.'

'Many Old Latins have already contributed to the cause, some more than once, and we are deeply grateful to all of you. For those who have been planning on making a contribution or are in a position to assist, we really do need your help today to finish the job!'

Please complete and return the donation form in the enclosed Alumni Lab booklet.



Cutting the first turf: Andrew Mulholland, RLS Chair of Governors; Rob Carter, R G Carter Construction; Ruth Newell, Old Latin, RLS Governor & Mayor of Buckingham; Berenice Norman-Bove, Year 7; Sir Stuart Hampson, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire; Dominic Paine, Year 7; David Hudson, RLS Headteacher; Tom Lyons, Partner, GSS Architecture.

Visit **www.rls600.com** for details on how to Buy A Brick or Sponsor an Element.

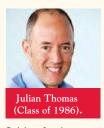
Or contact Jo Ballantine, RLS Director of Development on 01280 827309 or email jballantine@royallatin.org to discuss making a donation. Thank you.



Alumni Lab – Our Chance to Give Back

Denise Griffiths (née Bone, Class of 1980), Julian Thomas (Class of 1986) and Jade Thomas (née Tompkins, Class of 1992) talk to Latin Life about their idea to give Old Latins a special place within the Discovery Centre.

What is the Alumni Lab?



Julian: Alumni Lab will be a dedicated laboratory within the new Discovery Centre. It will act as a hub for Old Latins who are following careers within the

fields of science and technology and will allow their expertise and experience to be shared with RLS students. It's a way of inspiring students to pursue a scientific career, by hearing directly from people who were Royal Latin students in years gone by – whether they left 5 or 50 years ago!

What inspired you to get involved?

Denise: For me, visiting the school after many years was the catalyst for getting involved. I just couldn't believe that almost nothing in the science department had changed or been improved, and was quite shocked by the conditions the staff and students were having to work in. I've supported my children's schools in countless ways over the years – now it feels like time to do something for my own school!

Julian: RLS inspired me to pursue a career within a high tech industry, and I am passionate about ensuring that we do a better job of investing in science education so that the young people of today and tomorrow are inspired to innovate and experiment.

Jade: I'm not a scientist – but I will never forget some of my science lessons with Mr Grimsdale! I like the idea of Old Latins coming together to do their bit for the next generation of students. I'm proud to have been a Royal Latin student, and I'm impressed that the school is working so hard to balance its amazing heritage with a bright future.

How can Old Latins help?

Denise: It's a bit of a cliché, but it is a great opportunity for us all to give something back to the school which helped to make us who we are today.

Alumni Lab

We are pleased to announce a range of Alumni Lab Sponsorship Opportunities as follows: £1,000 or more: Bronze Sponsorship £5,000 or more: Silver Sponsorship £10,000 or more: Gold Sponsorship £15,000 or more: Platinum Sponsorship

Old Latins who would like to consider becoming a Sponsor of the Alumni Lab are warmly invited to attend the following events to find out more:

Drinks Party in Central London, Thursday 11th September, 6.30pm:

A chance for us to meet, network and share our Alumni Lab concept with you

Visit to RLS, Saturday 4th October, 2.30pm:

A detailed look at the Discovery Centre plans and an opportunity to see the construction site progress

Please contact Jo Ballantine if you would like to receive an invitation to the above events or for a copy of the Alumni Lab Sponsorship Pack, which explains the impact and benefits of your sponsorship in much more detail.

Email jballantine@royallatin.org or calling 01280 827309

Jade: Donate! Everyone who donates, even if it is only £10, will have their name included on a roll of honour in the lab. The most important thing is that as many of us as possible do as much as we possibly can.

Julian: Spread the word. We're doing what we can – but there are so many Old Latins that we aren't in touch with, who could well be interested in helping. Also, try to visit

Sponsor an Element

Hands up, who can remember their periodic table?

We're having great fun with our Sponsor An Element scheme, which is raising funds for the Discovery Centre. We're inviting Old Latins and their families to sponsor an element, and in return have their name or other inscription (within reason!) mounted on our giant periodic table, along with an inscribed plaque commemorating their support.

Forty-six elements have been sponsored so far – if you'd like to join the scheme, please visit www.rls600.com or email Dean at djones@royallatin.org for a list of available elements. Prices start at £500 – why not rally the troops and get your year group or form to club together and start collecting or fundraising for an element, and then come and visit us to see your inscription in situ – which element will you choose?



Old Latin Bernard Garbe receiving his element sponsorship plaque from Jo Ballantine.



Company sponsors can include their logo on their element.

RLS is like today.

Please read your Alumni Lab booklet to find out how to donate. If you have any questions or would like to know more about becoming an Alumni Lab. Sponsor, please email Jo Ballantine at jballantine@royallatin.org or call her on 01280 827309 – thank you.

the school so you can see for yourself what

From 1970s



Heather Smith (née Sizeland, Class of 1972) wrote a piece for us about her time at RLS as a student and employee:

"I would have been surprised to learn that I would be working here in 2014. I've been asked, "Has it changed?" and the answer is both "Yes!" and "No!"

When I started in 1965 the "Main Block" was a "New Building" having been opened in 1963, the gym had a roof but only one wall, rather like a carport, and Brookfield was the home of the Headmaster, George Embleton, and a boys' boarding house (where girls never went).

Some changes have certainly been for the better. Cigarette smoke no longer billows out from Room 11 - it was a real health hazard when the then staffroom door was opened. The younger students don't have to carry chairs to church for the Carol Service - no fun on a bitter December morning. They also needed carrying back the next day! Girls no longer have to wear unflattering berets and boaters, or the hideous striped red and white summer dresses, in those days the boys got off lightly when it came to uniform.

One of the biggest changes has been the growth in numbers, it's now over three times the size. Barton, Ruding and Verney have joined the original three houses of Denton, Newton and Stratton, and a two-form entry has grown to six. As a pupil I don't remember many support staff. I suppose there were canteen staff, cleaners and a caretaker, but the only administrative job I recall was the school secretary, Edna Embleton, the Headmaster's wife, who seemed to run the school. Nowadays there is a small army of administrative staff, all vital in the smooth running of the school. I'm now part of this army working as administrative assistant to the Exams Officer.

How did this happen? Following a degree in Psychology and a PGCE I taught for fifteen years in both primary and secondary schools in both Hillingdon and Bucks. However, in 1991 I was very happy to "get out of the rat race" and joined my husband in our small family business, which had been started by my parents. At the start of 2011 I started in my present job, which for most of the year is very part-time, however during the exam season it is virtually full time. It's a job that has great variety, is very demanding and is also very rewarding.

You might have expected the whole of the school staff to have changed in the intervening years. But no, Andy Cooper started as a newly qualified teacher during my final year and on my return he was Deputy Head. I was present on both his first day teaching and the final day before he retired.

Apart from the obvious physical similarities around the school building and the lovely grounds I would say that the most important aspect of the school, which remains completely unchanged, is the school's ethos. It is still a school full of wonderful people, both staff and students, the majority of whom make it a pleasure to work and study here. The students' achievements are considerable, both academically and in all manner of other skills supported admirably by a dedicated and talented staff."

Juliet Buckle (née Eckersley, Class of 1977) studied Genetics at Nottingham University after leaving RLS in 1977. She went on to study an MSc at City University, London and lived and worked in London for ten years. Juliet is married with 3 sons and now lives near Marsham in North Yorkshire where she works as a Marketing Consultant.

Caroline Cattle (née Eckersley) studied French/German at Bath University after leaving RLS. She has been living in the US since 1987, first in New York and currently in San Diego, CA. She is married with 3 children. Her husband is British and they both miss many aspects of England, but not the weather. She works as a secretary.

Richard Eckersley studied Materials Science at Bath University after leaving RLS. He worked in the steel industry before becoming a qualified accountant. Richard has worked for companies and practices in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire for the past twelve years. He currently lives near to Northampton and works in an accountancy practice on the outskirts of Buckingham.



Rachel Warren, (Class of

1979), a boarder in Rotherfield House has recently celebrated a wedding anniversary. Congratulations. Boy boarders will also remember her brother Chris; Chris, after leaving school, became a Tornado pilot and later went on to work for the Ministry of Defence.

From 1990s



Emma Wise & Kate Dixon (Class of 1994) were two recent visitors to RLS who were

remembering their last days here in 1994. They had a tour of the old labs, the Hall and the PE facilities and enjoyed looking through old documents in the Archive Room.

ANL LAND ON SCHOON

From 2000s

Sam Tatlow (Class of 2005) wrote to us to say:

"Since leaving the school in 2005 after completing my A-Levels I've had an interesting journey to my current position as Training Coordinator for media training and consultancy company, thinkBIGGER! At RLS I studied drama with Martin Boileau who passed on his passion for theatre and performance and it was this passion that took me to Leeds University to study Theatre and Performance at Bretton Hall.

After graduating, I worked for Graeae Theatre company supporting their Whiter Than Snow tour running workshops on attitudes to disability to school children around the country. I applied to Channel 4's Diversity Production Training scheme and I was given a place as a trainee coordinator working on the first series of E4's Misfits. I was then lucky enough to work on some great shows such as the third series of The Inbetweeners and the drama serial, Any Human Heart. I entered the TV industry as a freelance coordinator and managed to work on some great shows such as Random, the one off drama by playwright Debbie Tucker Green and the second series of Mad Dogs on Sky1.

Edi Smockum, who owns thinkBIGGER!, asked if I would help her with a new project. Channel 4 had just been given the rights to broadcast the 2012 Paralympic Games and had promised 50% onscreen disabled talent in their bid so needed to find this talent through a bootcamp style selection process. Over the next few months we found talent such as The Last Leg's Alex Brooker, and Channel 4 Paralympics presenters such as Arthur Williams and Daraine Mulvihill.

In 2012 I was brought in full-time with thinkBIGGER! to coordinate the training and development of the presenters and reporters. I now coordinate all of the training that thinkBIGGER! delivers, this includes the Channel 4 scheme that I originally started on so it feels a bit like going full circle. I am now looking into more disability consultancy and advising the TV industry and productions about disability. Mr Boileau's help and passion for his subject played a big role in where I am today, and I will always be thankful that he was my drama teacher whilst at the Latin. If I had any advice for current students; do drama! It will take you to all manner of interesting and wonderful places in life. "



Pictured, Radiant bride, Lucy Williams who married Daniel Jones at Manor Hotel, Moreton in the Marsh, on Friday 20th June. In attendance are Penny Williams, (Lucy's sister and bridesmaid) and Old Latin friends. Will Gann, (Class of 2007), a Senior Prefect at RLS, has now qualified as a doctor from Manchester University and is now in practice in Lancashire. He lives in a cleverly converted van outside the hospital and alarms patients and staff when he rolls out of bed each morning and walks into the hospital to begin his rounds!



Chris Gann, (Class of 2011),

brother of Will and also a senior prefect at RLS, was recently in school looking as fit and strong as ever. He has just completed a PE and Science course at Birmingham and is off to Exeter to complete his PGCE to qualify as a teacher. We wish Chris every success in his careerand best wishes for his 21st birthday next month.



The Whittlebury Park RLS 600 Campaign Golf Day

Friday 12th September 2014

Individual or team entries from £100 to include food and drink on arrival, 18 holes of golf, 3 course evening meal and prize giving.

For more information or to enter a team please contact

Dean Jones The Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX Email: golf@royallatin.org Tel: 01280 827306





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Fond Memories of School Caretaker



David with a kestrel that he had nursed back to health and re-released into the wild.

David Knibbs (1st November 1930 – 5th April 2014). Many staff and Old Latins will remember David, who sadly passed away this spring.

David was appointed the school caretaker by Headmaster, Mr Embleton, in May 1968 and after his retirement from his full-time post he continued to work at RLS until 2006 along with his wife Betty, in providing hospitality for Training Days, Governors' Meetings and other whole school functions. I was once told many years ago by a much wiser colleague than myself that the best way to gauge the true character of a school, on arriving for the first time, was to speak to the caretaker. I well remember in 1971 at my interview speaking with David. He was proud of the school, its order, reputation and history. He spoke well of the Headmaster and staff and especially of the pupils. He was generous with his praise and rightly saw himself as a valued member of the whole staff.

The latter years of the 60s and during the 70s saw the numbers peak in both Boarding Houses, Rotherfield and Brookfield. As a Housemaster along with my senior partner Ed Grimsdale, we often saw David long after normal school hours, at weekends and during the holiday periods. David would be in school attending to problems

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

with the heating, clearing paths in winter time, winding the school clock and responding to any crisis which involved the fabric of the school. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the power lines, underground water pipes, drainage systems, gas pipes etc of the school. No need to ask the County architects for site plans - simply ask David.

David had a great knowledge of aircraft, especially military aircraft, and in his retirement when visiting him in Buckingham at his home, I learned a great deal of the airfields of Bucks and Oxon and the aircraft using them. His collection of model planes and aircraft photos took pride of place in his home.

He loved his garden, always immaculate whether the lawns or his vegetable plots; he was devoted to Elizabeth his wife, indeed it is still difficult to think of one without the other. At David's funeral, Ed Grimsdale provided a wonderful eulogy part of which is on the Alumni web site. It was a fitting tribute to a man who loved the RLS and in return was respected and much-loved by staff and pupils alike.

Andy Cooper

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













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!

Inside Latin Life



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Join Us Online

Visit **www.rlsalumni.org.uk** for photographs, news and memories from Old Latins of all ages.

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.