

Inside Latin Life



Farewell to David Hudson



Archive Day 2024



Old Latins back in school



Remembering Old Latins



Forthcoming events & reunions



Welcome to the 21st edition of *Latin Life*

I was going to say that 'normal' Latin life has returned following over twelve months of celebrations and reflections of our 600th anniversary. But I then realised, of course, that there is no such thing when it comes to a Royal Latin school year!

The photo above shows our newly installed Student Leadership Team and these impressive young people stand on the shoulders of their predecessors. A stand-out moment of 2023 for me was the reunion of our former Head Girls and Boys, with alumni from 1950 right the way through to 2022 being represented. Old Latins can be reassured that the new team for 2024-25 show exactly the same leadership qualities which have shone in so many generations across so many years.

Talking of whom, I was very sorry but privileged to attend the funeral of Roger Wagland, one in a string of fine Head Boys. Roger was a regular attendee at our annual Archive Day and, of course, had his childhood in Rotherfield House literally jumping over the fence to attend school. A particularly proud

moment for me was to join him in opening the Wagland Archive Room in Rotherfield and to hear him talking so movingly about his formative years. Please see his obituary on page 17.

You are probably also aware by now that change is afoot in the leadership of the school. I have decided to retire this summer and my successor, Mr Ian Chislett, will take over the reins in September. And Jo Ballantine is also moving on to pastures new (in West Wales), to be replaced by Alex O'Donnell. More from us on pages 4 and 7.

So, not a normal year at all. Change is perpetually on the horizon, it seems, but what remains a constant are the values of our school and the open doors which are always there for you whenever the mood takes you to return. For the last time, from me at least, you know you are always very welcome back in your school.

David Hudson, Headteacher

Archive Day, 1st May 2024



On Wednesday, 1st May around seventy Old Latins, as well as sixth-form students and staff, attended Archive Day in Rotherfield House.

Guests were able to meet up with old friends, enjoy tea and cake, as well as take the opportunity to view the revamped Wagland Room, which included board displays on the 'David Hudson Years', vintage uniform and new and older donations of archive material housed in new glass cabinets. The Wagland Room screen showed a selection of images through the history of the school, as well as short film of HM The Queen Mother opening Main Block in June 1963.

Headteacher David Hudson was the guest speaker at this, his fourteenth and final Archive Day, where he fondly reflected on his years at the helm of the Royal Latin School, before his imminent retirement. John Hounslow (Class of 1970), author of the recently-published new history of the school, *Latin Lives*, presented Mr Hudson with tokens of appreciation on behalf of Old Latins, including a replica old-style school scarf, much to Mr Hudson's delight!

Guests were then invited to tour the school with Mr Hudson, before the afternoon drew to a close.

See opposite for a few snapshots of the afternoon.

If you missed Archive Day this year, there is still an opportunity to attend one of our two upcoming

'Archive Pop-in & Browse & Old Latin Meet ups':

Wednesday, 25th September,
4.00pm-6.00pm

Wednesday, 11th December,
10.00am-12.00pm

To book a place, please visit the events booking pages on RLS Connect:

rlsconnect.royallatin.org/events

Or email latinlife@royallatin.org



The 'revamped' Archive Room, with new display cabinets



David Hudson delivers his speech to the assembled audience of Old Latins in Rotherfield



An Old Latin presents Mr Hudson with his old school tie



Mr Hudson is thrilled with his gift from Old Latins of an old-style Royal Latin scarf



David leads a tour through the Brookfield Courtyard



The tour continues to the Discovery Centre

David Hudson reflects on fourteen years of headship



As an historian by trade, I know that fourteen and a half years does not amount to much. Looking at the honours board of headteachers in Brookfield House, this sense of history is reinforced still further - the 45 years of William Eyre (1785-1830) and, more recently, the 31 years of George Embleton (1948-1979) are humbling testimonies to their immense service to the school. This said, it could be argued that such is the pace of change in the 21st century that my own tenure of the Latin has seen a number of considerable shifts in the nature of the school. The impact of these changes, however, will be for others to judge . . .

I was appointed as Headteacher from January 2010 and had four key areas which I wanted to develop at the Latin - curriculum reform, development, the quality of teaching, and leadership. My first two years saw two significant moments: the first was a move to change our approach to GCSEs. Instead of the normal two years, we moved to covering GCSEs across three years to allow students to actually enjoy their learning (rather than rush headlong through the course). The second was the appointment of Jo Ballantine as Director of Development. A good deal of what

you have seen as alumni is due to Jo's inspirational approach. Not only have we raised over £10 million to update our teaching facilities (Discovery Centre, Sixth Form Centre and the Sports Campus), but I hope you have also seen an increase in the links we have made with you as alumni. Our annual Archive Day has become a fixture in the calendar and it has been a real joy to get to know so many of you over the years.

Of course, I was lucky enough to be Headteacher in 2023 and our 600th anniversary year. This marked a coming together of so many themes which I hold dear. Respect for our history and heritage is certainly central to what makes our school such a great institution. At the same time, I have always been clear that we need to look to the future to build on the foundations laid down by our predecessors.



Our special 600th anniversary Founders' Day service in 2023

Dan Jones, historian and Old Latin (Class of 1999) put it better than I ever could:

'When we acknowledge that we are part of something far greater than ourselves . . . we have a chance to reflect on what it is we stand for, what traditions we feel ourselves bound to uphold, and what we want to change to ensure that our school is fit to survive another generation. Another century. Another era.'

I have loved my time at the Royal Latin School and hope that my own few years have made a positive contribution to our future. It has been a genuine pleasure to have got to know so many of you and I wish you and our wonderful school all the very best for the future. Another era beckons.

A look back at a few key moments from David Hudson's headship



Groundbreaking ceremony for the Discovery Centre in 2013



Old Latin Roger Wagland (right), with Mr Hudson, students and staff at the official unveiling of the Rotherfield renovations in 2017



The 'socially-distanced' official opening of the 3G pitch in 2020



Opening ceremony for the Sports Campus in 2021



Signing the RLS 2023 visitors book at our 600th launch day at the Chantry Chapel in January 2023

Meet the new Student Leadership Team



Chloe Marlow, Head Girl

Hi, I'm Chloe, and I'm absolutely overjoyed to be the Head Girl of the Royal Latin School this year. I'm currently studying English Literature, History and Art for my A levels, and am struggling to decide whether to go

on to study History of Art or Law at university, but I know that eventually I aim to be a barrister.

During my five and a half years at the Latin so far, I have been an enthusiastic competitor in school events such as House Music and Drama (you may recognise me as Henry VIII, Mufasa from the Lion King or the girl who played the saxophone, and wore a sparkly skirt during 'Shine' by Take That). As well as this, I have also taken great advantage of our incredible sporting opportunities, including hockey and a short-lived handball season.

Outside of school I take great pride in my amateur baking company, in which I am commissioned to create cakes for birthdays and weddings! I hope that my attention to detail as well as strong commitment to creativity will allow me to bring a new perspective into this historic role.

I have ambitious plans to connect our school even further with the wider community, and cannot wait to get started.



Despoina Giannakaki, Deputy Head Girl

Hi! I'm Despoina and I'm incredibly honoured to be the Deputy Head Girl. I study Biology, Chemistry and Psychology and I hope to either do medicine or neuroscience in the near future.

Despite only joining RLS in Year 12, this school has opened so many doors for me and supported me in every way imaginable and because of that, I decided to join the Student Leadership team. Outside of school, I have a great passion for sport, mainly swimming, and I intend to do sponsored swims to raise money for charity. Travelling is also an interest of mine: I've always wanted to visit Northern Europe and eastern Asia and I hope to do so throughout my years in university! I'm so lucky to have such an amazing team to work alongside with and I don't doubt that they'll teach me so many new things along the way. I can't wait to implement my intended changes to benefit students across the school.



Bertie Buckle, Head Boy

Hello, I'm Bertie and I am humbled to be this year's Head Boy. I am studying Chemistry, Physics and Maths with the hope of reading Physics at university. I am an outdoor enthusiast and enjoy spending my spare time

sailing, at archery and walking alpacas along with my dog. I love being outdoors in nature and enjoy helping to preserve our environment, something I would like to take further in my role as Head Boy.

I have enjoyed taking part in as many school productions, music performances, and other school events as humanly possible. These amazing experiences shaped me into the person I am today. Currently, I am aiming for musical grades in singing, piano, and also enjoy playing guitar. Being passionate about mental health, I sincerely want to give back, and bring more opportunities to students to improve their confidence and find their own enthusiasms. I also enjoy taking part in Green Touch, volunteering at school and at a local environmental initiative (as part of my Gold DofE), and spending time with the wonderful 7V as one of their peer listeners.

Above all, I am honoured to be working with with Temi, Chloe and Despoina (who are absolutely amazing people), and also all the other exceptional student leaders.



Temituoyo Aruofor, Deputy Head Boy

Hey, I'm Temi and I am excited to be the new Deputy Head Boy. I study Maths, Physics and Economics, with the hope of going on to study Economics at university. Outside of my A levels I love playing football and

going to the gym with friends (although sometimes, this can feel more like a chore than something I do for fun). I've truly had a great time so far at our school and am now excited to do my best in order to give back to our school to the best of my ability. I am a strong believer in the student across the whole school! importance of establishing an effective stream of communication flowing from older students to their younger counterparts; and knowing that my fellow members of the new student leadership team also acknowledge the importance of this I look forward to working with them in order to do our best at integrating our ideas into the great structure that is the Royal Latin School.

Farewell from Jo Ballantine



Jo Ballantine, RLS Director of Development, 2010-2024, in the Discovery Centre

It is with mixed emotions that I have announced that I will be departing from my role as Director of Development at the end of June, to relocate to West Wales. After fourteen action-packed years at the school, I will miss it very much!

I want to thank Old Latins for their unwavering enthusiasm, good humour, help and support. It genuinely has been a privilege and a joy to have an overview of the Royal Latin

alumni community and to reconnect so many Old Latins with the school and with each other. It's so very hard to pin down the highlights, there have been so many. Overall I'd say that welcoming Old Latins back to the school for a look around is always a highlight; enabling people to experience the trip down memory lane, or to watch them meet former classmates or teachers for the first time in decades, is really special and often very moving. Also, fond memories of the 600th anniversary last year will always remain with me.

I know that you will give my successor, Alex, a really warm welcome and help her to realise very quickly just how special the Royal Latin is! I've said the same thing to so many people over the last few months: please just keep doing what you do for the school. Keep showing an interest, keep helping out where you can, keep encouraging your fellow classmates to join you in the Old Latin community, and keep feeling proud of your old school. It really is an incredibly special place and a warm and wonderful family, and I very much look forward to watching it continue to flourish from afar. My heartfelt thanks to you all - and please feel free to send me a message on RLS Connect if you want to stay in touch!

Thank you, Jo! We know you will keep in touch and we look forward to hearing about your adventures in West Wales!

Your legacy, their future

"You carry a Latin Legacy within you ... now you can ensure your legacy lives on at the Royal Latin"

**Latin Learning ... Cherished Tradition ...
Nurturing Landscape ... Enduring Friendships**

To find out more about leaving a legacy to the school, please request a copy of our Latin Legacies Guide from latinlife@royallatin.org.

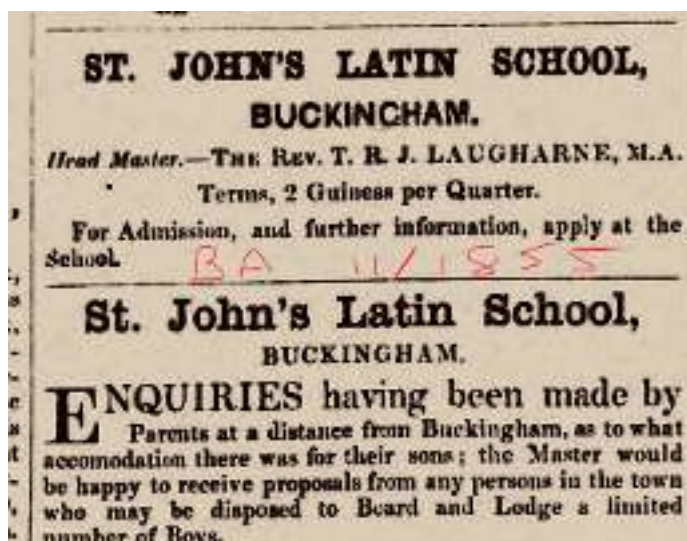
Or contact Nigel Pullen at info@cornwall-law.co.uk for a free will-writing service* in return for leaving a legacy or gift to the school

*first 25 Old Latins only



Boarding at the Royal Latin: history, importance and reflections

When boarding at the Royal Latin ceased in the early 1990s, it represented the end of an era and brought to a close a period of at least 200 years (and perhaps far longer) of boarding. Only around 30 state boarding schools still exist in England today.



An 1855 advert for boarders' lodgings in the *Buckingham Advertiser*

Boarding has been an important element of the Royal Latin's history. By the 19th Century, boarding was an intrinsic part of the business model for running a school - pupils paid fees, and in return were given an education by day and a roof over their heads (usually in the homes of local residents) by night. On occasion, when a headteacher was appointed to another school, sometimes hundreds of miles away - he would even take his paying pupils with him.

When the school moved to the first site on Chandos Road in the early 1900s (now George Grenville School), girls and boys were still lodged in private homes across the town. When the school finally reached its current home further along Chandos Road in 1963, for the first time it had a purpose-built boarding facility for the boys in Brookfield House, and in Rotherfield House for the girls. Staff lived in, in order to oversee the boarding houses, and boarders ate their meals separately to the rest of the school.

Experiences of boarding were, as one might expect, very varied, and very subjective. We've listened to lots of former boarders share their memories of their school years, and always welcome those honest reflections of times which were for most, generally happy - but unquestionably challenging for some. Former boarders speak of their time at the school with a wide range of emotion, and the school continues to welcome visits from those who want to see

what the school looks like today. Some speak of the long-standing rules, routines and customs that were somehow perpetuated and handed down from generation to generation.

Some boarders recall feeling quite remote from their day pupil classmates, and cite that boarders tended to stick together, whilst others welcomed the dilution of the boarding social life and happily mixed with day pupils, sometimes heading home with them to enjoy time with their families and a home-cooked meal. The subject of food tends to trigger lots of memories for boarders, with some slightly bizarre sounding food combinations and an overall sense that teenage appetites were tricky to satisfy - something one imagines to have been true from the earliest days of the school in the Chantry Chapel too. Thankfully we know a little more about the importance of good nutrition for growing limbs and minds today.

As in the early days of the Royal Latin, boarders at the



Boarders in front of Brookfield in the 1960s

Chandos Road site were also expected to perform duties and help out around the grounds, as well as 'volunteering' to help out in the town - for example by setting up the WI market stall on a Saturday morning. Boarders were clearly seen as a resource, and an asset to the school and community.

Perhaps the headteachers had an appreciation of how service to others can help shape a young person. Boarders who enjoyed sport seem to be the ones who recall being most happy, with a near constant round of swimming, cricket and other activities to keep busy with.

Then, of course, there were the high jinx, and the fun times, most of which are shared with us in confidence and can't possibly be repeated! Master keys, late nights at the pub, and dancing in the Rotherfield cellar may just feature . . .

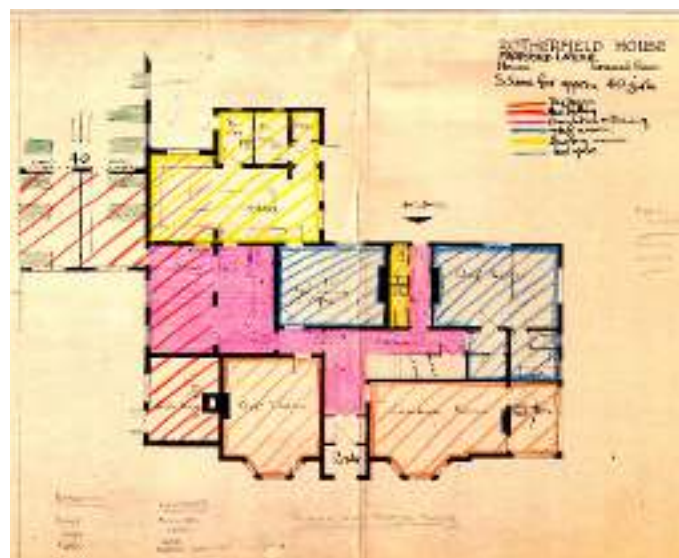
For most though, homesickness must have loomed on occasion, and it must have been so challenging, particularly in an era when pastoral care and safeguarding were certainly not in existence in the way they are today.

Much has changed at the Royal Latin since the last boarders packed up their belongings and departed for home. No longer under the control of the local authority, we set ourselves the highest standards and pride ourselves on placing the needs and welfare of every young person above all else. We work extremely closely with parents, GPs and other services, to ensure that we have as holistic a view as possible of any challenges being faced by each student, both inside and outside school hours. Today, the school employs five counsellors, has an active peer listening scheme, and nominated safeguarding staff – and all staff, whether teaching or support staff, are trained in how to respond to a student showing distress or seeking support. If only all of that had been in place over the centuries.

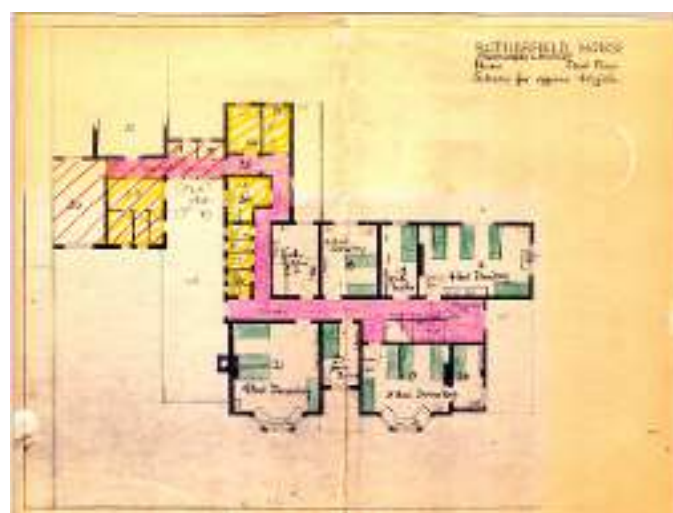
The space previously used for boarding has inevitably been repurposed. The old girls' boarding house is now a light, bright study centre for the 6th form, and in Brookfield, the boys dormitory is now the library, the TV room is the base for the special educational needs team, and the old kitchen is the current staff room, with the dining room now serving as a formal meeting room. The headteacher still has his office in what was the head's private quarters, overlooking the headteacher's garden, which is a popular spot for staff gatherings and hosting guests for events such as the annual prize giving evening.

So much has changed. And yet, sometimes, on a warm summer's evening when the school is empty, it's easy to imagine the sound of laughter ringing out across the school, and to be in Brookfield House on a cold and dark winter night certainly conjures scenes of rows of boarders eagerly having their tea. Boarding is an important and poignant part of the Royal Latin's history, and it is important that the school continues to record and convey that history as we move forwards into our seventh century.

If you are a former boarder and would like to share your memories of boarding with the school, or you'd like to request a visit, please get in touch with us at latinlife@royallatin.org.



Ground plan of Rotherfield when converted for boarding



Plan of Rotherfield's proposed first floor layout



The first floor of Rotherfield today - a quiet study area

Old Latins back in school

Julia Janssens (née Philp, Class of 1973) visits the Royal Latin after her 1969 English essay makes the national news



c. 1969: A pensive Julia in her Main Block classroom

It was a pleasure to welcome back to school Julia Janssens (née Philp), all the way from Belgium, for her first visit back to school for fifty years, in June 2023.

Julia re-connected with the Royal Latin after seeing a photo of an old essay she wrote in a two-year-old *Express* article online. A furniture restorer and his wife, Peter and Rosa Beckerton, had found the essay literally down the back of a sofa in 2021; it was dated 26th February 1969, written by an unnamed 11-year-old girl, and seemed to make some eerily accurate predictions about the future technological advances such as smart phones and video calls. Rosa Beckerton contacted her local paper, *Peterborough Matters*, in attempt to track down the author of the essay, and the paper duly published an article entitled, 'Sofa hides schoolgirl letter from the 1960s looking at the future'. The story was then evidently picked up by the national media.

Two years later, Julia, who has lived in Belgium for many years, came across the photo of her essay in an *Express* article online and recognised her own handwriting straightaway. She remembered the assignment being set, possibly in an English lesson with Miss Capel, and how she was inspired to think about future technology by the recent moon landings. Julia had then tried to contact the finder of the essay and approached the Royal Latin for help.

We re-visited the classroom in Main Block where Julia once had a photo taken at school, and also met with some of the

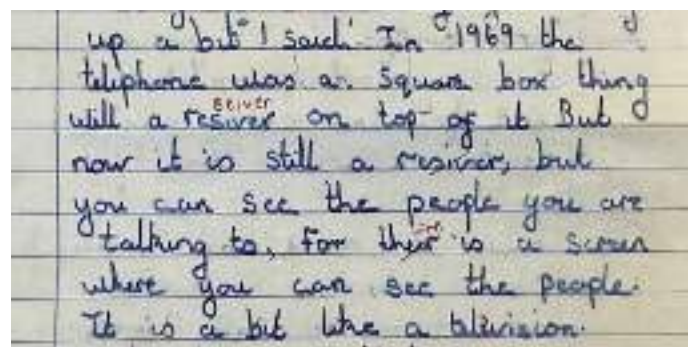


2023: Julia recreates the moment in the same classroom

present day English teachers to discuss her essay story, and even engaged in a conversation in Dutch with one of our science teachers, Eddy van Beek, during a tour of the Discovery Centre.

We're pleased to report that not only did we track down the Beckertons, but also arranged for Julia's essay to be returned to the Royal Latin, where both Beckertons and Julia agreed it should now live.

We're glad that we have now made the re-acquaintance with Julia, who will be welcome back to the Royal Latin any time to view her famous essay.



An excerpt from Julia's essay which predicted phones with screens and video calls

Bas-relief donated to school by Bernard Garbe (Class of 1971)



The bas-relief is 'unveiled in the Discovery Centre

On 21st February we were delighted to welcome back into school Bernard Garbe (Class of 1971) for the official unveiling of a bas-relief sculpture donated by Bernard for display in the Discovery Centre.

This bas-relief, by sculptor Lina Carr (Bernard's sister), depicts an early 19th-century resuscitation technique - the 'trotting horse method', which saved the lives of many 'drowned' canal barge people in the 19th century.

Lina Carr (née Garbe) studied sculpture at the Amersham School of Art and went on to work in London. This sculpture

has been modelled in wax, moulded and recast in bronze resin.

Bernard Garbe is the Chairperson of Vitalograph. Founded in 1963, and based in Maids Moreton, Vitalograph manufactures and supplies respiratory medical devices which aid the detection, diagnosis and management of respiratory conditions.

Thank you again to Bernard and his family for their continuing support of the school.



David Hudson thanks Bernard Garbe (centre left) & Lina in front of science students and staff

Old Latin Medics supporting RLS MedSoc Chloe Smith (Class of 2019) and George Edwards (Class of 2018)

We were very grateful to two Old Latin medics who have recently given up their precious time to talk to our thriving sixth-form MedSoc.

Chloe Smith, who has recently qualified as a vet, visited in



Chloe Smith offers advice to sixth-formers

February and George Edwards, currently in his first year as a junior doctor at Portsmouth Hospital, conducted a remote careers advice session during in March. Thank you Chloe and George; we are always so grateful for the support and advice provided by Old Latins to current students.



George Edwards presents his advice online

Old Latins back in school continued

Catherine Llewelyn-Evans (Class of 1994)



Catherine Llewelyn-Evans

It was a pleasure to welcome back to school for a visit Catherine Llewelyn-Evans (Class of 1994) in February this year. Catherine recently entered the teaching profession as a teacher of French and German, citing her Royal Latin education as the start of

love for languages. The primary reason for Catherine's visit was to see the tree planted in memory of her late mother, May Llewelyn-Evans, who was Matron at the Royal Latin from 1996-2007, and sadly died before her time.

The tree is an eponymous May (Hawthorn) tree on the front lawn in front of Main Block, which was planted in May's memory. Daffodils were blooming the tree during Catherine's visit, which Catherine remarked was appropriate for her mother's Welsh heritage. Catherine reflects on her mother's time at the Royal Latin:

'Mum joined as matron in September 1996 having refreshed her nursing qualifications. She very much enjoyed her job,



May Llewelyn-Evans

though the organisation of the annual vaccinations was an admin challenge she probably wouldn't have missed! Staff members that particularly marked her time there were Sam Baines, Andy Cooper and Ed Grimsdale. I think an air ambulance made a landing in the school field during her time as matron, and I seem to remember much excitement over a visit by an RAF helicopter! Not only was she excellent at looking after students, there was a time where she tried to help a squirrel and took it into the office, only to find it was covered in less welcome fleas!'



Daffodils in bloom and May's new plaque



The May tree on the front lawn in memory of May Llewelyn-Evans

Chloe Lewis (Class of 2009)



Chloe Lewis

Thank you to Chloe Lewis (Class of 2009) who kindly came in to contribute to the Royal Latin's first dedicated 'Culture Week' in March, a programme of events and activities, designed by students and devoted to celebrating the racial and cultural diversity within the school.

Chloe is Founder and Director of The Catalyst Collective, a mentoring enterprise focused on young Black women, and gave a talk in the Library at lunch time to students about aspirations and her personal journey. The Catalyst Collective was founded in 2020 and Chloe has worked with young people for 10 years and is driven by the impact of seeing them realise their ambitions. She is a policy adviser within the Civil Service, a part time

PhD researcher and 'full time Black girl enthusiast!' Chloe's research centres on the importance of role models and representation for Black students in British higher education.



Chloe addresses students



Commodore Alison Hofman (Class of 1989) at Prizegiving 2024



Commodore Alison Hofman addresses prize winners, staff and parents



Mr Hudson is honoured with a standing ovation at his final Prize Giving

We were honoured to welcome Royal Navy Commodore Alison Hofman RRC KHNS MA MSc QUARNNS (Class of 1989) to be our guest of honour at the annual Prize Giving evening this year, on 20th June.

Alison is currently Head of the Royal Navy Medical Service and has a career as a military nurse with extensive operational experience in clinical healthcare leadership and management roles, completing tours of Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, and also has NHS experience with clinical postings to Portsmouth, Plymouth and Birmingham. She was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross and Royal Red Cross in the New Years' Honours List 2007 and Operational Honours List in September 2009 respectively. In May 2022 she was appointed Honorary Nursing Sister to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and is honoured to retain the

position in service of His Majesty the King. In addition to her military responsibilities, she is an active volunteer trustee of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London. As well as presenting all the prizes to the student winners, Alison also delivered an inspiring speech, reflecting on her school days and military experience and how the LATIN values of Leadership, Aspiration, Teamwork, Innovation and Nurturing had featured in her life and career to date.

Alison commented after the event on X (formerly Twitter):

'A huge honour as an 'Old Latin' to address the prize winners and present the prizes. A truly inspiring evening and what a talented bunch of students who I loved chatting to after the event. Future scientists, politicians, innovators, to name a few, and some future @RNJobsUK'



In other Old Latin news

Old Latins invited to the Palace:

Sam Tatlow, MBE (Class of 2005) and Martin Prendergast (Class of 1986)



Sam Tatlow, MBE with her mother outside the Palace

Congratulations to Sam Tatlow MBE (Class of 2005) and Martin Prendergast (Class of 1986) on their invitations to this summer's round of garden parties at Buckingham Palace. Receiving an invitation to these events is a real



Martin Prendergast in the Palace garden

honor and recognises the positive impact on the community made by the invitees. Sam is Creative Diversity Partner at ITV, and Martin's communications company helps to connect Arts initiatives with business and government.

Katie Godfrey (Class of 2023)



Katie Godfrey receiving her award from the Lord Lieutenant

Congratulations also to Katie Godfrey, or 'CWO Godfrey' of the 1563 (Buckingham) Squadron ATC. In autumn 2023 CWO Godfrey was appointed as 2023-2024's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Buckinghamshire, a few months after being promoted to the highest rank any cadet can achieve within the RAF Air Cadets.

Some of her achievements include being selected to go abroad to Belgium with the International Air Cadet Exchange for achieving the Wing Dacre Award, and completing one of the RAFAC's most difficult courses, being selected to participate in the Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship, supporting the Air and Space Camp this in 2023 and also supported the Immersive Technology Team in 2022.

It's safe to say the 1563 (Buckingham) Squadron are extremely proud of Katie's achievements, and we at the Latin look forward too to hearing about all Katie's future achievements.

From Stewart Walker (Class of 1975)

Calling the Class of 1975 - 50th Reunion - 14th June 2025



The menu from the very first '75 Club reunion in Buckingham

Thank you to Stewart Walker from the Class of 1975 for contacting us about the planned reunion of the 1975 leavers year' group to take place on **Saturday 14th June 2025**, with a possible trip to the Royal Latin on **Sunday 15th June**. The '75 Club' held its first reunion at The Old Market Place on Jan 23rd 1975 with a number of that cohort staying in regular contact since then. Thank you to Stewart for supplying the menu from the very first reunion dinner nearly 50 years ago!

If you are from the Class of 1975 and have lost touch with your school friends and would be interested in joining the 50th anniversary reunion, please contact us at latinlife@royallatin.org and we'll put you in touch with Stewart and the other organisers.

Or, you can contact Stewart directly through **RLS Connect** if you're a registered member.

Not from the Class of 1975 but thinking of organising a reunion for your year group?

Please feel free to contact us - we'd love to support you with getting the old gang back together and to welcome you back into school for a trip down memory lane.

Contact us at latinlife@royallatin.org

Old Latins remembered

Lorna Pollard (pupil 1931-1935/6 and school governor in the 1960s)



Lorna (centre) visits the RLS Archive in 2022, with her daughters Sally and Diana and chats with former Deputy Head, Andy Cooper



The sad news reached us at the end of last year that local Old Latin and former Royal Latin governor, Lorna Pollard, had passed away at the grand old age of 103.

Lorna was the oldest known Old Latin until her death, and we were privileged to host a visit to the school from Lorna, with her two daughters, Diana and

Sally - also Old Latins, in May 2022, when she met with former Deputy Head and Archivist and Alumni Relations Manager, Andy Cooper, and Director of Development, Jo Ballantine.

During her visit, Lorna consented, along with her daughters,

to be recorded sharing her fascinating memories of her school days. Lorna started at the Royal Latin in 1931 at the age of 11, when the school was housed in the buildings that are now George Grenville Academy and the headteacher was William Fuller, soon to be succeeded in the same year by Maurice Thomas.

Lorna spoke of her memories of legendary former teachers of that era such as 'Taffy' Williams and Tommy Allitt, as well as her love of sport at school; she played in both the girls' hockey and tennis teams. Later in her life, both her daughters, Diana and Sally, also attended the Royal Latin, this time at the new site on the Brookfield Estate. Lorna was also on the Board of Governors in the 1960s, and was part of the welcoming committee at the visit of HM The Queen Mother to open the new school building in June 1963.

We send condolences to Lorna's family, and will treasure the recording of Lorna in the Archive for future Old Latins to learn from.

Roger Wagland (Class of 1956)



Roger at the Royal Latin in March 2023

It is with sadness that we report on the passing of Roger Wagland (Class of 1956), in November 2023.

Roger had remained a loyal friend of the school in later life, and had a unique perspective on the Royal Latin, having lived in Rotherfield House with his family post-World War II, and overlapping with the early days of the Royal Latin's life on the Brookfield Estate, when George K Embleton, or as Roger referred to him 'the wonderful George', was at the helm. In Issue 6 of *Latin Life*, Roger recalled, with his characteristic good humour, his favourite memories of living at Rotherfield:

The house had a cellar described in the sale brochure as 'excellent dry cellarage', which became my hidey-hole during my childhood and continued as such well into my teens. Here my friends and I would celebrate all our minor triumphs be they rugby matches won (or lost), Savoy opera finales or sports days or whatever. Here I felt safe, as parents never trundled down the tight stone staircase, they simply called from the doorway in the stair panelling - it was just as well they ventured no further.

Roger was instrumental in laying the foundations of the strong alumni relations that the school has today, as one of a small group of Old Latins involved in the 'Living Memory Project', set up at the time of the opening of the Archive Room in 2012.

In 2017, after the renovation of Rotherfield Sixth Form Centre, the Archive Room was renamed the 'The Wagland Room' and the new-look Rotherfield was opened in 2017, with Roger attending as guest of honour, unveiling the official opening plaque (pictured below), after which he regaled the assembled audience with his memories of living in Rotherfield as a boy. Most recently, Roger attended our 600th anniversary photocall for former Head Boys, Girls and Deputies in March 2023, where he was on typical good form (as captured in the first photo above).

Roger's family reported that he was still taking pleasure from reminiscing about his school mates, masters and mistresses in his final days.

Roger really was the epitome of the maxim often coined by our outgoing headteacher, David Hudson, '*Once a Latin, always a Latin*'.



The front of Rotherfield during Roger's time as a resident



The Rotherfield renovation official opening in October 2017

Old Latins remembered (continued)

Derek Pullen, Royal Latin governor in the 1970s



We were sorry to hear the sad news from Nigel Pullen (Class of 1974) that his father, Derek Pullen, passed away in July 2023.

Derek was on the Royal Latin School Board of Governors in the early 1970s and was a well-known member of the local community, managing the Buckingham TSB for a number of years and serving on both the Aylesbury Vale District Council and as Mayor of the former Buckingham Borough Council 1972-73.

Derek also served on a variety of committees in Buckingham, including the League of Friends and was the organist and choirmaster of Buckingham Methodist Church.

Sadly, Derek's wife, and Nigel's mother, Jean Pullen, also passed away in February 2024.

We send condolences to Nigel and his family for their double loss.

Steve Pryer (Class of 1973)



It was with sadness that we heard the news from members of Steve's RLS friendship group, of his sudden passing in May this year.

His family posted this announcement at the time, which they were happy for us to share with alumni:

'Very sad news, Steve collapsed and died on Sunday. It was at one of his favourite places, Keem beach on the west coast of Ireland. We were on a family holiday so we were with him at the end. We are all inconsolable at the moment, however we wanted to thank everyone for their love and support in this tough time. He was such a big part of so many lives and he will be sorely missed by any who knew him. He was so loved by all.'

Please raise a glass or two (or a bottle) in his memory.

We were pleased to meet with Steve when he joined us at Archive Open Day in 2018 with fellow classmates, when former teacher, Jim Robertson, was guest speaker. We offer condolences to Steve's family and friends.



Nearly 1,500 Old Latins are now on RLS Connect!



After launching our new private online community for Old Latins for our 600th anniversary year, the platform has gone from strength to strength and we now have nearly 1,500 members who have signed up to have online profiles.

It's quick and easy to register, and once you have you can:

Build your profile (adding a photo, interests, career path)

Invite others to join too

Find, message & connect with your old school friends, teachers, siblings, & staff

Read about upcoming events for Old Latins and book places at Reunion Days and special 600th Anniversary celebrations

Browse our growing digital archive and search for yourself or your friends in our digitised material

Join a Group and reconnect or meet other Latins that have similar interests to you, careers, or classmates from the same decade

Share information about your career, a new venture, a job opportunity you have got or anything exciting you think would be of interest to other Latins

Help give back to your old school with careers advice & mentoring for current students

Opt to receive regular bulletins from the Development team, with news relevant to alumni

Join today, and let's see if we can get to 2,000 members in 2024/25!

rlsconnect.royallatin.org



Have you visited our online shop yet?
Visit royallatin.org/shop to view our full of range of merchandise, including our 600th anniversary items

(order before 15th July
for posting before September)



Get in Touch!

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Founded 1423

2024/25 Calendar

(any updates will be published on RLS Connect)

Wednesday, 25th September

Archive Pop-in & Browse & Old Latin Meet up

Friday, 8th November

RLS Act of Remembrance

Wednesday, 11th December

Archive Pop-in & Browse & Old Latin Meet up

Tuesday, 17th December

RLS Carol Concert at Buckingham Parish Church

Wednesday, 7th May

Annual Archive Open Day

Thursday, 8th May

A Level Art Open Studio

Friday, 20th June

Founders' Day & Sports Day



Duke, our 2024 Victor



Eva, our 2024 Victrix

Stop press:

And finally . . . congratulations to our Victor and Victrix Ludorum Sports Day winners Duke and Eva at this summer's Sports Day!

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It's your Latin Life . . .



We rely on your contributions to shape this magazine - so please get in touch to share ideas for articles or let us know what you would like to see included in *Latin Life*.

We'd particularly like to be able to share your news – whether relating to career, family, leisure, travel or voluntary work – with other Old Latins, so get your thinking caps on and email us at:

latinlife@royallatin.org

